



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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JANUARY, 1937

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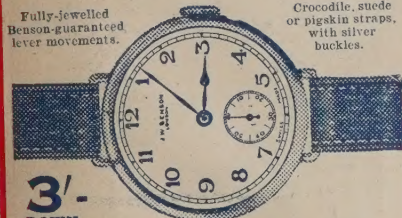
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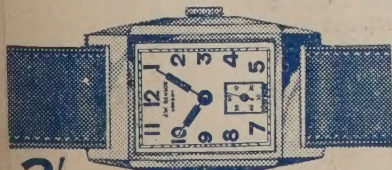
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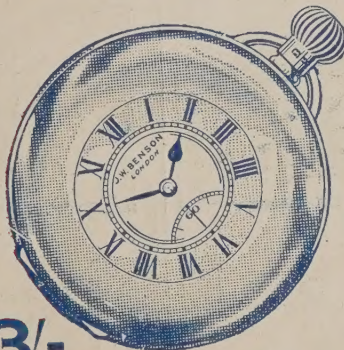
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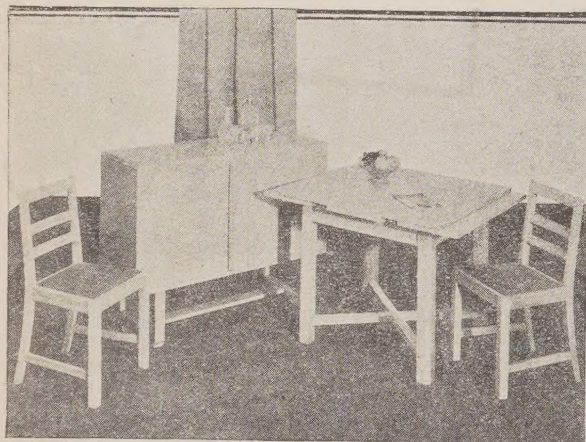
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

No. 1

JANUARY, 1937

Vol. XVII

Year of Great Activity Confident Anticipations for 1937

by WILLIAM EDWARD LLOYD

President of N.A.L.G.O.

I desire to express to all members of N.A.L.G.O. my sincere wishes for their happiness and prosperity during the New Year, 1937.

For N.A.L.G.O. 1936 has been a year of great activity, full of progress. In the speech of King Edward VIII when he opened Parliament on November 3, 1936, the House of Lords and the House of Commons were informed that a measure will be submitted to make further provision for the superannuation of local government officers. We may now confidently anticipate that legislation will be passed during the present session to put right those anomalies in the superannuation of local government officers, the removal and adjustment of which N.A.L.G.O. has been advocating for the past fourteen years. It will be a glorious achievement.

IN another equally important field a very significant change has occurred during the current year. To say that the tide of Whitleyism is running in N.A.L.G.O.'s favour is to put a very low estimate on the progress made. There has been a proposal emanating from the Middlesex Borough and District Councils Association that a Provincial Whitley Council for the County of Middlesex should be formed and the matter is, receiving full consideration. In the North-Eastern District the principle of the formation of a Provincial Whitley Council has been approved by both sides and negotiations are at present proceeding for the allocation of seats on the staff side. The East Midland, West Midland, Eastern and South-Eastern District Committees have all approved the principle of forming Provincial Whitley Councils in their respective areas and the position in Scotland is similar to that in the North Eastern area. But the crowning success of Whitleyism during 1936 was the revision of the constitution of the Standing Conference of Joint Councils at a meeting held on September 18, which involved among other things a change of title to the "National Whitley Council." So rapid is the pace of progress in this direction that I can confidently forecast a very interesting report from the National Executive Council to the annual conference at Margate, next Whitsuntide.

Change of Outlook

In the other main sphere of N.A.L.G.O.'s service conditions policy—the sphere covered by the "Hadow" report—the work of N.A.L.G.O. is beginning to have its effect and there are indications that there is a change of outlook in several important directions. A communication has been received from the Ministry of Health inviting N.A.L.G.O. to appoint representatives to attend a conference with representatives of the associations

of local authorities, for the purpose of advising the Minister of Health as to the constitution and functions of the central body envisaged in the Hadow report to be "charged with the supervision of all questions affecting officers." This, I venture to suggest, is the most important development which has occurred since the issue of the departmental committee's report at the beginning of 1934, and I am sure that we all hope that the deliberations of the conference will be crowned with success.

Cost of Living

Another important event which has occurred during 1936 is the setting up by the Minister of Labour of a Cost-of-Living Index Advisory Committee to advise the Minister as to the methods to be adopted in the collection of information relating to family budgets and the approximate average weekly expenditure of working class families, with a view to a reconstruction of the index figures measuring the percentage changes from month to month in the cost of maintaining a present-day standard of living. The National Executive Council submitted a memorandum to that Committee pointing out that the inadequacies of the present index number are generally realised; that as a result of these inadequacies serious hardships have been inflicted upon many middle class and lower class families and urging (1) that the "weighting" system be seriously reconsidered and overhauled and (2) that test budgets be obtained in a larger number of cases and with a much wider range of family expenditures. The National Executive Council has also agreed in principle with the scope of an inquiry proposed to be made by the Civil Service Statistical and Research Bureau in an endeavour to obtain information from the middle classes under the same heads of expenditure and also has agreed to co-

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operate with the bureau by securing appropriate information from local government officers over a range of income up to about £1,000 limit, breaking this up into four or five income groups. If branches and individual members are asked to supply appropriate information I hope that there will be a prompt and full response.

Stupendous Increase

It will be seen that 1936 has been an extremely important year in the annals of the Association. It has been one of achievement and of progress, no less in the internal affairs of N.A.L.G.O. than in the national aspect of its work. The number of branches has increased from 577 to 600. This is undoubtedly a cause for satisfaction, but one may legitimately express surprise and gratification at the stupendous increase in the membership of N.A.L.G.O. At October 31, 1935, we had 85,546 local government officers in membership, and at July 31, 1936, this number had increased to 92,157. This increase of 6,611 is the largest yet recorded in any one year with the exception of 1930, when N.A.L.G.O. amalgamated with the National Poor Law Officers Association Incorporated. If the branches have acted upon the appeal which was issued in the March issue of this journal and in the October issue, we may be able to record an increase in our membership to 100,000 before my presidential year is ended.

It is becoming almost a platitude to say that N.A.L.G.O. goes from strength to strength, but I am confident that there has never been any greater justification for repeating it than what has happened during the year under review.

Wisdom of Participation

I have no desire to anticipate the National Executive Council's report to the annual conference next year when it submits an account of its stewardship, and even if I had that desire I have not space at my disposal to go into any detail and, therefore, I will now content myself with saying that the annual report will



Mr. W. E. LLOYD

show that more and more members of the association are becoming conscious of the benefits which they may derive from their membership. Each of our ancillary activities is attaining new high levels and is proving to be of increasing value to those who are wise enough to participate.

Summer School Abroad

The summer school movement has become so popular that during 1936 we increased the number of schools from two to three, holding the third in Wales, and we so enlarged the scope of the English summer school that the lectures and the debates which followed them were devoted to a study of comparative public administration. On every side one has heard nothing but praise for these innovations, and by reason of their success we have been encouraged to launch out a bit further. For the first time since the inauguration of the summer school movement five or six years ago, we are proposing to hold a school abroad, probably in Paris, next year. This proposal is in its embryonic state just now, but no doubt something further will be recorded in this journal and in the National Executive Council's annual report in due season.

Another Educational Cruise

During 1936, too, we made provisional arrangements for a cruise to the United States and Canada in 1937. This will be similar to the cruise which we so successfully organized to the Baltic, Germany and Russia during centenary year. Details have been already circulated to the branches, and I hope that many of our members will be able to take advantage of this unique opportunity to study local government in the new world.

Rapprochement with Sectional Associations

One of the most interesting references from the Annual Conference, 1936, was that dealing with closer working with sectional associations. A meeting of the Standing Joint Committee was held quite recently when the National Executive Council representatives on that committee put forward a memorandum setting out what was in the minds of Conference and making certain suggestions whereby this very desirable objective could be achieved. The position at the moment is that the sectional and professional societies represented on the Standing Joint Committee are considering the memorandum and each will submit its observations to another meeting of the committee which will be held prior to the Annual Conference, 1937. I am glad to say that the memorandum was well received and I think that we shall be able to make much progress before we meet again in Margate.

Residue of Chance

May I now enlist your sympathy? The progress which I have been able to outline in this short article, I think you will agree, has been devoted solely to the economic and material welfare of every member of the Association. It is true that it redounds to the credit of the Association, and that its primary effect is the betterment of the service conditions of local government officers, but in spite of improving service conditions, there are those who fall by the wayside. It is not their fault, they are victims of circumstances over which they have no control. Even when every reasonable precaution has been taken there is always a residue of chance, and no man can say that he is one hundred per cent. secure. I suggest that the only decent

thing to do is to help these members in their time of distress and more particularly it is our moral duty to see that the widows and orphans of those of our members who pass on shall not be left in penury. That is why we have a Benevolent and Orphan Fund, but that fund is going to be useless if it remains just a paper constitution. It cannot function properly without money; the scope of assistance is limited by the amount of its income and even the most generously minded person cannot produce money out of his pocket like the conjurer produces a rabbit out of his hat. We shall not be content until every member of N.A.L.G.O. is subscribing half-a-crown a year to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. This is not a matter of mere organisation, it is not a question of planning, it is really and truly a case of every member exercising the greatest virtue that humanity can possess, and it is up to you, individually, to see that the Fund does not fail adequately to respond to all the calls which are made upon it. When all is said and done, half-a-crown a year will not break you, but it will help to keep somebody else above starvation level. We talk about the happy family spirit of N.A.L.G.O. and we all pay lip service to the proverb which says that charity begins at home. I suggest that it is high time that each one of us gave practical expression to these sentiments. I commend the Fund to your generosity.

Thank You!

I now wish to strike a more personal note. My official career is drawing to its close, but I must still remember that I am in the service of the Hampstead Borough Council and that as an officer of that local authority I have a duty to perform. As President of N.A.L.G.O. I have been invited here, there and everywhere to attend dinners, meetings and social functions of all kinds. In this the branches and the district committees are following their generous kindly attitude towards every president of N.A.L.G.O. and, like my predecessors in office, I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to respond to those invitations and to do my duty as president of this great Association of ours. But since I suffer the physical disabilities which have been bequeathed to human beings, I cannot divide myself up into two or three parts; I cannot be present at several functions at the same time, and I cannot be at one end of the country one day and at the other end the next, and consequently I have had regretfully to refuse some of the invitations which have been extended to me, not because I have not wanted to accept them, but because it has been physically impossible to do so. This has been a source of great disappointment to me.

To those branches and district committees where I have had the pleasure of meeting the rank and file of the Association, I can only express my deep gratification at being afforded the opportunity of talking to them and of getting to know them more intimately. I want to thank them too for their genial and lavish hospitality; wherever I have been I have received right royal treatment to an extent which has convinced me that the camaraderie of N.A.L.G.O. is a living and potent force directed towards success in the Association's work. My concluding wish is for continued prosperity during 1937; may the signs and portents which are so full of good omen be richly realised during the year which lies ahead.

ALL MANKIND'S CONCERN

Weekly Allowances

A widow, aged 60 years, who has received assistance from the Benevolent and Orphan Fund for several years. She also has a daughter, aged 38 years, dependent upon her, who at one time was able to earn approximately £1 per week by dressmaking. She has, however, been very ill for several months, which has resulted in her becoming mentally weak, and is, therefore, unable to continue to contribute towards the family income. The widow herself is also under medical treatment. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a substantial weekly allowance towards the support of these two unfortunate people.

A young member, aged 18 years, whose father died four months ago after an illness which lasted for a few days only, has been left with his mother and sister, aged 11 years, dependent upon him. Member is only in receipt of a very small salary, which is quite inadequate for the needs of three people. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly allowance in this case to supplement the family's meagre income.

A widow, aged 43 years, left with two children dependent upon her. One child obtained employment, but she is now suffering from a breakdown in health and has had to return home. The other child earns 10s. per week only. It is impossible for the widow to carry on without the assistance which is being rendered to her by the Benevolent and Orphan Fund in the form of a weekly grant.

A member, aged 54 years, with a wife and child, aged 9 years, dependent upon him, has been ill for twelve months during the last two years, and his salary has now ceased. Member's wife has also been continually ill for the last two years and both she and her husband are on a special diet. Member has fallen into arrears with the payment of doctor's bill and ordinary household expenditure. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly grant in this case towards the maintenance of the member and his family.

Lump Sum Grant

A member, aged 39 years, with a wife and two children, aged 9 and 6 years, dependent upon him, has fallen into financial difficulties owing to the serious illness of his wife which has lasted over several years. It became necessary for her to undergo an urgent operation and member found that he was unable to meet the cost. His younger child has also been ill with meningitis which lasted for twelve months. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund made a grant in this case to help member meet the cost of the operation.

Loan

A member, aged 50 years, with a wife and two children dependent upon him, fell into arrears with the payment of various household accounts, owing to the very serious illness of his wife, and also of his daughter, who suffered from a breakdown in health in November, 1935, and had to leave her employment. She was ill until August, 1936, and during that time member had to send her away for convalescence. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund made a loan of £15 in this case to help member over a difficult period.

N.A.L.G.O.'s EDUCATIONAL TOUR UNITED STATES and CANADA Places of Interest to be Visited

With memories of the Northern Capitals since during 1935, when such interesting options were held and educational facilities extended, it was felt that a visit to the cities of the New World would have wide appeal to members. There has been a demand for a tour of this character, and naturally, the demand had to be satisfied, and the 1937 tour is the outcome. It will provide a unique opportunity for members in the local government service—and others who are interested in public administration—to gain first-hand knowledge of municipal administration in Canada and New York.

Quebec
Of all the places to be visited by members of the Association on their thrilling educational tour to Canada and the United States next summer, Quebec is probably one of the most picturesque and historic cities. Sailing up the St. Lawrence the view of Quebec dramatically overshadowing the river almost suggests a mediaeval setting, and even if the ship arrives by night, the scene is equally entrancing. The myriads of lights up the face of the cliff, the dim outline of the massive ramparts and the brilliantly illuminated ferries present a scene which can only be described as fairy-like.

Civilisation in New World
For Quebec has succeeded in growing old gracefully, and the narrow, winding streets with cobblestones and dormer windows in the lower town serve as a vivid reminder of the heroic priests, soldiers and pioneers who established civilisation in the New World. The first man to visit the present site of Quebec was Jacques Cartier, in 1495, but it was not until 1603 that a

settlement was founded by Samuel de Champlain, as wise an administrator as he was a bold explorer. For a century and a half thereafter this little village was the headquarters of French rule in America, contending with the New Englanders for the domination of a new continent. In the middle of the eighteenth century, the fortunes of Quebec changed abruptly, when in 1759 the British defeated the French in one of the most famous battles in history, on the Plains of Abraham, and four years later Canada was ceded to Great Britain.

Rich in History

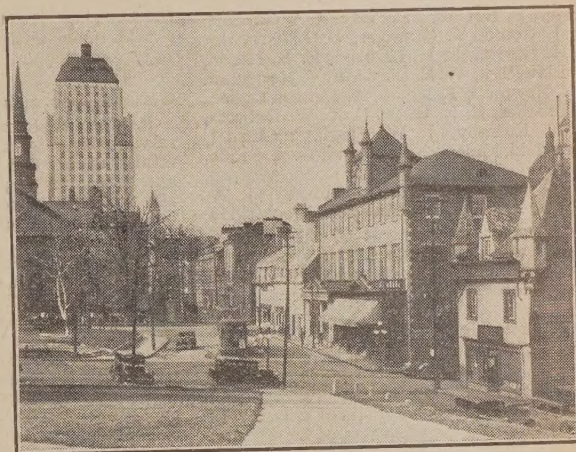
Quebec is, indeed, rich in historic buildings and monuments, and its French origin is everywhere apparent. One of the most picturesque spots to visit is the famous Dufferin Terrace, a wooden promenade 1,400 feet long, erected on the edge of a cliff 180 feet above the river. The view overlooking the old town and the St. Lawrence is unrivalled. Facing the terrace is the Château Frontenac, a vast hotel which, with its towers and terraces, is reminiscent of an old French château, and forms a striking landmark from the river.

Illusion of Middle Ages

To the west of the city stretch the

historic Plains of Abraham, where the heroic British commander, Wolfe, defeated Montcalm, and finally won Quebec—and Canada—for the British. Monuments to both these famous leaders are to be seen in Quebec. If time permits, a visit should certainly be made to the beautiful Montmorency Falls, where the Montmorency River plunges into the St. Lawrence in a 270-foot leap. On the way out to the Falls the quaint, straggling village of Beaufort produces an illusion of the Middle Ages, which could not be surpassed in Normandy itself. Another interesting excursion is to the well-known shrine of St. Anne de Beauré, the Lourdes of Canada.

Further details of this entrancing tour, combining education and recreation in a novel way, can be obtained from branch secretaries or from the general secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Early booking is desirable, as this popular feature of the Association's 1937 programme bids fair to outclass the wonderful centenary cruise to the Northern Capitals.



Place d'Armes, Quebec

Paris Experiment

Arrangements are now being made for the 1937 summer schools. In view of the enthusiasm with which the lectures on public administration in foreign countries were received at the Cambridge summer school in 1936, the education committee has decided that as an experiment a school shall be held in 1937 in Paris. Arrangements will be made for lectures to be delivered in English on French public administration generally, and on special aspects of French public administration; for example, housing, education, public assistance, and so on. It is hoped also to arrange for the students attending the school to visit various institutions and centres of administration so that they may have an opportunity of studying, at first hand, French government.

Cité Universitaire

The school will be held from July 3 to July 10, and accommodation has been reserved at the Collège Franco-Britannique, Cité Universitaire. The Cité Universitaire comprises several colleges, each college during term time being occupied by students from various nations. During the vacations the colleges are open to special summer schools, and to teachers and

Summer Schools, 1937 Preliminary Arrangements

students undertaking research work. It is probable, therefore, that the students will have some opportunity of contact with students from other countries.

Each student will have a room to himself or herself comfortably furnished, with hot and cold running water.

It is probable that the charge for the school, including travelling from London to Paris and back to London, all accommodation for the whole week, attendance at lectures, visits, etc., will be £7.

Back to Oxford

A summer school will also be arranged at Lincoln College, Oxford, from July 17 to July 24. The lectures at the Oxford summer school will deal with the growth of local government and with the change of ideas as a result of economic and educational efforts, and will outline the possibility of planning in local government.

The charges at the school will be 10s. 6d. per day.

Lincoln College was founded in the fifteenth century. The Hall was built in 1437 by John Forest, a Canon of Lincoln. Over the gateway is a grotesque image, put up in 1900, a copy of the devil which anciently looked over Lincoln. The oldest part of the College is its kitchen, which occupies the site of one of the ancient academic halls mentioned as early as 1300. The Chapel is extremely interesting, as an example of seventeenth-century work in Oxford. A manuscript copy of Wycliffe's Bible is now a cherished possession of the College, while some of its most interesting associations are connected with the leader of another great Oxford movement, John Wesley, in whose rooms (the scene of the meeting of the so-called "Holy Club") a memorial tablet was unveiled in 1926. His portrait is in the Hall.

Capturing Atmosphere

The students attending the Oxford summer school will be able to capture something of the true university atmosphere and to enjoy the educational and social benefits of one of the Association's summer schools.

Further details of the schools will be published in the next issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Honorary Treasurer Resigns

Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith appointed Successor

New Move to Implement "Hadow" Recommendations

MOMENTOUS and portentous is a fitting description of the winter meeting of the National Executive Council held at the Association's office on December 19. Momentous because it recorded a change in one of the most important honorary offices, that of honorary treasurer, Mr. W. E. Lloyd relinquishing the position which he has held for twelve years, and giving way to Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, city treasurer, Liverpool. Portentous because it foreshadowed extremely important developments in the realm of service conditions, of Whitleyism, of superannuation, and of the general structure of local government, thus giving promise that 1937 will be one of the most important landmarks in the history both of the Association and of local government.

Mr. W. W. Armitage, chairman of the Council, presided over a well attended meeting, the other members present being:

Messrs. H. Allen, H. J. Altoun, A. G. M. Archibald, E. F. Bacon, J. T. Baker, W. A. N. Baker, A. G. Bolton, T. W. Bottomley, J. Brown, J. Chaston, G. W. Coster, F. E. Cox, A. B. Day, A. A. Garrard, A. J. Gould, V. Grainger, D. L. Griffiths, F. H. Harrod, P. H. Harrold, R. E. Heron, G. Llewellyn, W. E. Lloyd, F. V. Merriman, C. J. Newman, T. Nolan, A. Denton Ogden, A. Pinches, E. L. Riley, C. A. W. Roberts, L. E. Rumsey, J. W. Singleton, Miss I. Stansfield, Messrs. E. J. Stead, G. A. Stone, H. Taylor, J. W. Vince, J. H. Warren, W. H. Whinnerah, E. G. Whitney, J. W. Wilkinson, W. Wilson, Miss L. H. Wooldridge.

At the commencement of the proceedings it was decided to send a message of congratulation and loyalty to His Majesty King George VI.

Resignation of Honorary Treasurer

When it was made known that Mr. W. E. Lloyd had submitted his resignation from the office of honorary treasurer as from December 31, 1936, an eloquent tribute was paid to him by the chairman of the Council and the following resolutions were adopted:

"That this Council do place on record its wholehearted appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. W. E. Lloyd as honorary treasurer of the Association for the past twelve years; that his guidance in financial matters has been invaluable; that any tribute in the form of a resolution must fall far short of the deep sense of gratitude which this Council feels for the services rendered to N.A.L.G.O. and to local government officers throughout the country by Mr. W. E. Lloyd. That the services rendered to the Association by Mr. W. E. Lloyd as honorary treasurer be recognised in a tangible form. That the branches be given an opportunity of subscribing to a fund from which such recognition shall be made. That a special sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. A. G. M. Archibald, W. W. Armitage, G. W. Coster, J. L. Holland, W. H. Whinnerah, be appointed with power to determine the form of such recognition."

Mr. W. E. Lloyd, who was obviously deeply moved by this expression of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues on the Council, tendered his thanks for this further testimony of their affection, which he said "is not only fully reciprocated, but more than repays me for anything I have been able to do for N.A.L.G.O."

Mr. Legh-Smith Appointed

The Council then proceeded to consider the appointment of a successor to Mr. Lloyd and it was unanimously decided to ask Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, F.S.A.A., F.I.M.T.A., city treasurer, Liverpool, to accept office until the annual conference, 1937.

General Secretary's American Tour

It was evident that Anglo-American relationships in the field of public administration have been further improved and cemented by the recent visit of Mr. L. Hill, general secretary, to that country. The evidence was submitted by the president, Mr. W. E. Lloyd, who read a letter which he had received from Mr. Guy Moffett, the executive of the Spelman Fund of New York. In that letter Mr. Moffett said: "We recently had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. L. Hill. We tried to tell him personally how much we valued the opportunity of having him with us. I feel, however, that I would like to express to the National Association of Local Government Officers through you our appreciation of the contribution I am sure he has made to our work in this country. It was exceedingly helpful to have Mr. Hill meet with various groups of public officials and university men in the country, tell us something more of the work you have been doing in England and give his advice and counsel upon many problems with respect to which his experience has given him rare insight. His discussion and comment on public affairs generally were equally valuable and stimulating. All of this was, of course, enriched by a combination of personal qualities which win liking and respect."

"We are certainly indebted to your organisation for making it possible for him to lay down his regular duties for a time and share his experience with us."

To this letter the president had sent the following reply: "It has given me much pleasure to receive your letter of the 1st instant, and to hear that you appreciated Mr. Hill's visit. On behalf of the National Association of Local Government Officers I tender to you sincere thanks for the unbounded hospitality and many kindnesses which Mr. Hill informs me were showered upon him by everyone with whom he officially came in contact."

"I am placing your letter before the National Executive Council which will meet on Saturday, the 19th instant, and I feel sure that the communication will

give the members equal pleasure and satisfaction."

Unemployment Assistance Board

The Service Conditions and Organisation Committee reported that the organising secretary had had an interview with an officer of the Unemployment Assistance Board with regard to the transfer of functions from local authorities to the Board under the terms of Part 2 of the Unemployment Act, 1934. Reporting on the interview, the organising secretary said "that the Board intended to carry out the procedure which had already been laid down and give priority of consideration to those officers possessing the appropriate qualification when the necessary arrangements for transfer of functions have been completed."



MR. W. H. LEGH-SMITH, new honorary treasurer of the Association, has been city treasurer of Liverpool since 1926 and has had 36 years' continuous experience as a chief financial officer, for, before going to Liverpool, he held the position of city treasurer of Bristol for four years, having previously been city accountant of Hull for 16 years. Earlier still in his career, he acted as deputy to the borough accountant of Shrewsbury. He is a strong believer in modern methods of organising municipal finance, having reconstructed the entire financial system of the Corporation of Hull during his office as city accountant, and was primarily appointed to Bristol for the purpose of overhauling, reconstructing and controlling the financial work of that city. Liverpool, since his appointment, has also received his attention and it now has the most modern methods of financial administration and accountancy.

In addition to his duties as city treasurer of Liverpool, Mr. Legh-Smith is also treasurer to the Mersey Tunnel Joint Committee; honorary treasurer to the Liverpool Sanitary Science Instruction Committee; the Liverpool Migration Committee, St. James's Cemetery Trustees and the Liverpool Probation Committee. As a Fellow of the International Federation of Housing and Town Planning, he was selected to give the one British financial paper at the conference of the federation in Rome during 1929. Mr. Legh-Smith is a Fellow of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors and a Fellow of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated). His services have frequently been sought in an advisory capacity, and he is now serving as a member of the advisory committee of financial officers set up for the purpose of investigating and reporting with regard to the existing block grant system as an outcome of the conference between the Minister of Health and the representatives of the various associations of local authorities. Mr. Legh-Smith has just commenced to serve his second term of office as president of the Liverpool Branch.

He has the capacity for "thinking big" in business matters and is an able and far-seeing financial adviser, with up-to-the-minute ideas. His wide knowledge of high finance and of every branch of municipal financial administration is largely due to the cumulative effect of the many important financial operations in which he has been engaged throughout his experience. His acceptance of the important office of honorary treasurer of N.A.L.G.O. means that the Association will continue to be served by an outstanding figure in the realm of local government finance. We offer a hearty welcome to Mr. Legh-Smith and trust that his participation in the highest councils of the Association will prove to be a happy and fruitful experience for him.

National Salary Scales

The Whitleyism Sub-Committee reported that the many problems arising out of the formulation of the national minimum scales of salaries and standard conditions of service and out of the application of those scales and conditions to the staffs of local authorities had been fully discussed. The sub-committee had come to the conclusion that before any definite action could be taken, it would be desirable to have some detailed information relating to the existing scales of salaries being paid by local authorities to their officers. A wide survey of the position is now being made and as soon as the survey has been completed the Whitleyism Sub-Committee will be able to give further consideration to this question which is of prime importance to all members of the Association.

Education Administrative Service

The Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education has recently prepared a memorandum on the recruitment and the training for directive posts in the education administrative service. The Service Conditions and Organisation Committee had approached the Association of Directors and Secretaries with a request that an informal and friendly conference should be held on this subject and it is pleasing to note that the Association has agreed to the suggestion made by the Committee. In addition to this, the Committee has approached the secretary of the Association of Education Committees making formal application that N.A.L.G.O. should be permitted to join in the conference with the local authorities' associations on this important subject.

Cost of Living Inquiry

The Committee reported the receipt of a communication from the secretary of the Advisory Committee on Working-Class Expenditure stating that the Committee had under consideration the question whether the families of any classes of non-manual workers whose salaries are above the present unemployment insurance limit of £250 per annum should be included within the scope of the inquiry which is to be undertaken by the Ministry of Labour into working-class family expenditure. Before making a recommendation, the letter continued, the Committee wished to obtain oral evidence from the organisations concerned, and the Council was asked to appoint representatives to appear before the Committee in support of the memorandum submitted at the end of October. The Council appointed the chairman and vice-chairman of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee and the organising secretary to give evidence before the Advisory Committee.

Whitleyism's Further Progress

The subject of Whitleyism was again well to the fore. The Committee received a report of an interview between a deputation appointed by the National Executive Council and Sir Henry Jackson, Bt., M.P., Sir William Jenkins, M.P., and Mr. Dingle Foot, M.P., for the purpose of obtaining their advice and co-operation in the promotion of a parliamentary bill to make the setting up of Provincial Whitley Councils compulsory in all areas. The Members of Parliament had advised that a bill should be drafted and when it was ready for consideration another meeting should be held. By that time it was felt there should be some more information about the progress of the Superannuation Bill and they would be able to decide the appropriate moment for the introduction

of the Whitleyism Bill. This sound advice was, of course, accepted by the Council. The Staff Side secretary of the National Whitley Council reported the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee had received a communication from the Ministry of Labour stating that the Minister had learned with pleasure of the constitution of a National Whitley Council for local authorities' administrative, technical and clerical services; that he had no doubt there was much useful work to be done by that body; and he wished the Joint Council success. He also stated that, if it should be the desire of the Council, the Minister would be pleased to nominate a liaison officer from the Ministry of Labour to attend the meetings of the National Joint Council.

District Reports

In the Metropolitan District a conference had been held between representatives of the Middlesex branches and the Whitleyism Sub-Committee of the district committee, at which it had been reported that so far fourteen authorities had agreed to participate in the proposal to establish a Provincial Whitley Council for Middlesex, eight had declined and seven had not yet reached a decision. It is believed that the necessary steps will be taken to set up a Provincial Whitley Council if the majority of the authorities are in favour.

Reports from other districts as to the progress of Whitleyism in those areas were also submitted by the Committee.

Public Utility Officers

The Committee had also considered the desirability of the Association taking steps towards the effective organisation of the large number of officers engaged in undertakings of a quasi-public character, including the higher administrative staffs of the London Passenger Transport Board. A full report on the organisation of these officers will be submitted to the Committee at a special meeting to be held before the March, 1937, meeting of the Council.

Institutional Staff Conditions

The Committee decided that a comprehensive report should be prepared on the salaries and conditions of service of institutional staffs, particularly for nurses, and that the necessary publicity should be undertaken by the Association.

Leave of Absence for Territorials

At the request of a branch, the committee has given consideration to the suggestion that the Association should ask the Ministry of Health to circularise all local authorities requesting them to agree to members of their staffs who are Territorials being allowed the fifteen days leave for army camp with pay, in addition to their usual annual holiday, also with pay, and the Committee decided that branches of the Association, the Ministry of Health and the Scottish Office be informed that in the opinion of the Council members of the service joining the territorial forces should not be prejudiced or penalised in any way.

Legal Assistance

The Law and Parliamentary Committee reported in detail on twenty-five cases of legal assistance in addition to the 131 cases which had been dealt with at headquarters since the October meeting of the Council. This assistance was rendered over a very wide field from accidents to libel and slander, wrongful dismissal and superannuation arbitration.

Compulsory Superannuation

It was the pleasant duty of the Committee to report the statement in the

King's speech at the opening of the present session of Parliament on November 3, 1936, that a measure would be submitted to make further provision for the superannuation of local government officers, and the committee also submitted a formal report on the question and answer in the House of Commons on November 16, about the scope of the proposed Bill. The text of this question and answer appeared in the December issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE at page 672. A further statement by the Committee was that on November 19 the acting secretary of the Joint Superannuation Committee consisting of representatives of the four associations of local authorities, N.A.L.G.O., and the Trades Union Congress General Council, received from the Ministry of Health a confidential memorandum indicating the main points proposed to be dealt with in a Bill to amend the Act of 1922 with a request that he would arrange for a conference to be held at an early date between the Ministry's officials and the Joint Committee for discussing those points. The Joint Committee met on November 30, and on the following day, December 1, the Joint Committee had a conference with a principal assistant-secretary of the Ministry of Health and other officials of the department together with a representative of the Government actuaries when points outlined in the memorandum were fully discussed.

Trunk Roads Bill

It was proposed by the Trunk Roads Bill recently before Parliament to transfer from the existing highway authorities to the Minister of Transport the liability for the maintenance, repair and improvement of approximately 4,500 miles of the roads which constitute the national system of routes for through traffic in Great Britain outside the administrative County of London, county boroughs in England and Wales and large burghs in Scotland. The Bill provides that the Minister of Transport may delegate by agreement to certain county councils any of his functions with respect to trunk roads in order to ensure continuity of administration and it is also proposed that the Minister shall be able by order to require that for a period of two years such of his functions as may be specified shall be exercised by the council of a county or county district. This means that certain councils will act as the Minister's agents so as to enable the existing organisation and machinery of the local authorities to be used in all appropriate cases. The salaries and establishment charges incurred will be reimbursed to the authorities. A communication on behalf of the Association was addressed to the Minister of Transport, reported the Law and Parliamentary Committee, expressing the view that the proposed legislation would almost necessarily affect the position of local government officers who are employed either directly or indirectly in connection with those roads which will be the subject of the legislation, and urging that provisions for the protection of the officers concerned be inserted in the Bill. The Minister of Transport, however, could not see his way clear to adopt this suggestion, and consequently a notice of a compensation clause was put down by Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., and Mr. Dingle Foot, M.P., which came before the House on November 30. Mr. Foot, in the absence of Sir Henry Jackson, moved the clause in committee, and was supported by Mr. Chuter Ede on behalf of Sir William Jenkins. The Minister in charge of the

Bill declined to accept the clause. In the course of the debate several members also pressed for the clause, but on a division it was rejected by 144 to 98. The Bill has since received the Royal Assent.

Electricity Distribution and Compensation

The Committee reported that formal application had been sent to the Committee on electricity distribution asking that Committee to include in any recommendations that it might make a recommendation that adequate provision should be made for the protection of the officers and servants concerned, including compensation for loss of office, or reduction of salary or emoluments. The report of the Committee on electricity distribution has recently been issued, and in it the Committee recommends that legislation for giving full effect to its proposals should also give full protection by providing for adequate compensation to officers and servants who may be displaced or whose position may be adversely affected. The recommendations also went on to suggest that it is desirable in any new legislation applying compensation provisions to any scheme of reorganisation and distribution, that the opportunity should be taken to consolidate all the existing compensation provisions relating to electricity supply.

Arbitration Bill

The Committee reported that the president of the Association had received a letter from Lord Asquith stating that he was proposing to introduce into the House of Lords, in response to a widely expressed desire, a Bill to put an end to the practice of authorities, companies or other persons who invite tenders for the construction of public works or erection of buildings, or supply of machinery plant or other manufactured products, inserting in the contract that they issue, a clause to the effect that they, one of the parties to the contract, or an engineer, architect, surveyor, officer, servant, or agent employed by them, shall be the umpire or sole arbitrator to decide all or any prescribed differences that may arise under the contract between them and the contractor, builder, or manufacturer, who is the other party to the contract, and asking whether the Association would approve of the Bill and would authorise him to make a statement to that effect in the House of Lords. The Committee recommended the National Executive Council to support this Bill in principle, and the Council endorsed this recommendation.

Compensation Increases

On the question of compensation the Committee reported that since the October meeting of the Council three cases had been decided, and as a result of these three appeals the compensation awarded to the appellants totalled approximately £210 more than that originally granted by the compensating authority.

Lending Library Facilities

The Education Committee reported that since the October meeting £427 had been loaned to members of the Association under the loans for educational purposes scheme. A full report of the library facilities of the Association was submitted by the Committee, which made two main points. The first was there is a need to develop in members a clearer conception of the purpose of the Association's library, which is not in competition with other libraries, but which exists to provide a service supplementary to the services provided by the university,

public and other libraries supported by public funds. Members should be encouraged to write to the Association's library to see what assistance can be given to them when local sources have failed to meet their needs. The second point was in connection with libraries which might be organised on a regional basis by area education committees. The Education Committee felt that the most economical basis for a library for members of the Association is national; to establish regional libraries would duplicate in each area the organisation already in existence at headquarters. Such resources as are at the disposal of the area education committees could no doubt be used for other purposes to much better advantage, and in addition area education committees could, without incurring any expenses, be instrumental in creating that attitude to the library which will lead to its being of maximum benefit to members. The Committee decided to make a full survey of all existing facilities so as to consider whether the Association's library could become associated with other libraries.

Grants to Universities

At the October meeting of the National Executive Council, the chairman and vice-chairman of the Education Committee were given power to allocate grants not exceeding £500 to universities for the academic year 1936-37. They have now reported that they have approved grants totalling £355 to eight universities, and they also reported that in order to strengthen the friendly relationship existing between local branches and the universities the cheques in respect of these grants were forwarded to the universities through the local officers of the Association.

Progress reports of the scholarships scheme, the Nalگو Correspondence Institute and the lending library were submitted. Full detailed reports will appear in the annual report of the National Executive Council to be presented to the Annual Conference, 1937.

Public Relations Programme

The Publications and Public Relations Committee reported that it had appointed a small sub-committee to confer with the Association's expert adviser on a programme of public relations for the year 1937. The Committee also reported that in the special mayoral supplement issued on November 9, 1936, by the *Western Mail and South Wales News*, a special 600 word article on the progress of N.A.L.G.O. written by the divisional secretary for the area was published.

During Centenary Year, 1935, the Nelson branch presented to the Nelson Corporation a shield for competition among elementary school children, the competition to take the form of an annual essay. The honorary secretary of the branch has just stated: "You will be interested to know that the Nelson Council has again this year allowed facilities to school children to visit Corporation Departments and has devoted a week known as Local Government Week."

Rural Life Conference

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reported that it had appointed Mr. A. A. Garrard to attend on behalf of the Association the annual rural life conference for 1937 organised by the National Council of Social Services.

Death Benefit Scheme

The report and observations received from branches on the proposed death benefit scheme was submitted by the

Committee which recommended that, as the majority of branches seemed to be against the introduction of a scheme of this kind, notice of motion should be given to the Annual Conference, 1937, that no further action be taken. The Council endorsed this recommendation.

Planning for 1937 Holidays

Nearly the whole of the report of the Special Activities Committee was concerned with the reconstruction of the Croyde Bay holiday centre, and with improving the Cayton Bay holiday centre, and Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel, for next season.

A decision of importance to members is the increase in the fees for residence at these Centres, which has become necessary as a result of the present fees having proved too low during the past three years, resulting in a debit balance on the Revenue Account. The Committee considers that these establishments should pay their way, and as both Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay Centres will be the finest of their kind in the country as from next season, it is felt that visitors will not object to paying an adequate fee for really first-class accommodation. The increases over the present fees will be as follows:

MEMBERS			
Adults	..	..	5s. per week
Children	..	..	2s. 6d. per week
NON-MEMBERS			
Adults	..	..	10s. per week
Children	..	..	5s. per week

Slightly increased fees will also be charged for garage accommodation.

It has also been found necessary to increase the charges at the Association's Private Hotel at Rhos-on-Sea, near Colwyn Bay. In this case the fees have been increased from 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. per day for members, and from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per day for non-members. Half rates are charged for children under 12 years. These increases will operate from June 1, 1937.

All Mankind's Concern

There are now 7,764 life members of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, 141 life membership fees having been received since the October meeting of the Council. This was reported by the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee, which also stated that a total of 349 cases had been dealt with, involving grants or loans amounting to £4,125. The number of persons in receipt of weekly allowances is 304, and grants being made to them are at the rate of £13,000 per annum.

Ancillaries' Progress

The Provident Society Committee of Management reported that at November 25, 1936, there were 16,411 members of the sickness section, 1,138 members of the death benefit section, and that 4,307 persons were insured under the hospital and nursing home section.

The Building Society Committee of Management report again recorded marvellous progress. There are now 15,311 shareholders of the Society, and 2,900 depositors. Since the October meeting, over £171,000 has been advanced to members to enable them to purchase houses.

Logomia Board of Management reported that at November 30, 1936, 8,307 motor insurance policies were in force, that the number of life policies had increased from 5,320 in January, 1936, to 5,965 at the end of November, 1936, and that during the same period fire and householders' comprehensive insurance policies had increased from 7,609 to 9,487.

At Random

By "HYPERION"

WITH THE SCOTS IT WAS WHISKY OR
PERISH—AND HOW THEY HAVE SURVIVED.

Non-Controversial

After the period of acute controversy through which we have passed during the last month, a period during which we have witnessed the strange spectacle of the *Daily Herald* on the one hand, patting the *Daily Worker*, *The Tablet*, and *Lady Houston* all, for a brief space of time, voicing similar views, I want to avoid all controversial subjects. So I propose to concentrate my attention on the subject of Food and Drink.

"Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are," said the great Brillat-Savarin.

"Should I drink at meals?" was one of a number of questions fired at Dr. Hay (of "Hay diet" fame) at the close of a lecture given recently in London. The answer was: "If you are thirsty, but not as a habit."

If it has become a habit, it is much easier, and may be cheaper to give up the meals.

"Civilisation," says Robert Lynd, "as you will see from a study of the hoardings and advertisement columns, is at present almost unanimous in maintaining that salvation comes of eating more and drinking more of everything. We are told that we must eat more bread, fish, meat, fruit, vegetables, dairy produce, seaweed, and sweetmeats, and that we must drink more milk, tea, barley-water, lemon juice, stout, beer, whisky, gin, and Empire wine. An occasional medical eccentric—a lover of contradiction for contradiction's sake—decies all this, and warns us to abstain from most of the things in which the authorities are encouraging us to over-indulge, and to be sparing in our consumption of the rest."

A Bismarck Story

It was on the same occasion that Bismarck entertained Goschen and the British Ambassador, Lord Odo Russell, later the first Lord Ampthill, at dinner. A dish of lampreys was served.

"Do you know what we call those?" asked Bismarck. "We call them 'nine-eyes.' (Neun-Aug.) I once ate eighty-one 'eyes' at a sitting."

"But had you no cause afterwards to regret your prowess?" asked Lord Odo.

"Ah," said Bismarck, "I have often regretted what I have eaten, but never what I have drunk."

"What?" exclaimed Lord Odo. "Have you never been the worse for your potations?" "I did not say that I had never been the worse for them," Bismarck retorted; "I said that I had never regretted them."

(From "Down the Years," by the Rt. Hon. Sir Austen Chamberlain.)

Without Comment

She hopes to make the eating public of the country frog-conscious. (News item.)

A Question of Choice

Did you see the will of Miss Rothschild in the papers to-day? She has left Waddesdon and its marvellous contents to our friends

Jimmy and Dolly. When one stayed there (as I have done more than once in old days), a servant used to appear in your bedroom between seven and nine in the morning. The dialogue (or ritual) was described by Raymond, as follows:

"Which will you have, sir—tea, coffee, or chocolate?"

"Tea."

"What kind of tea, sir—China, India, or Ceylon?"

"India."

"What will you take with it, sir—cream, milk, or lemon?"

"Milk."

"What kind of milk, sir—Jersey, Guernsey, or Alderney?"

I confess I should have been tempted to reply "Sark."

But it is a wonderful series of triplets, isn't it?

Such is (or was) "le monde ou l'on s'ennuie." (From "Memories and Reflections," by the late Lord Oxford and Asquith.)

Clerihew

Dante Alighieri

Seldom went to the dairy.

He wrote the Inferno

On a bottle of Pernod.

—E. C. Bentley.

"Which I Drank."

I had twelve bottles of whisky in my cellar, and my wife told me to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink or else— So I said I would, and proceeded with the unpleasant task.

I withdrew the cork from the first bottle, and poured the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle and did likewise, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle, and poured the whisky down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the fourth sink, and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next, and drank one sink out of it, and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass, and poured the cork down the bottle and drank the glass. I pulled the next cork from my throat, and poured the sink down the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink, and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand, and counted the bottles, corks, and glasses, and sinks with the other, which were twenty-nine. To be sure, I counted them again, and when they came by I had seventy-nine, and as the house came by I counted them again, and finally, had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses and sinks counted except one house and one bottle, which I drank.

Quite Simple

"Annoyed" writes to a daily paper to ask: "Can you give me a cure for a red nose?"

I can. Drink until it becomes purple.

I have no pain, dear mother, now.

But, oh! I am so dry.

Connect me to a brewery,

And leave me there to die.

—ANON.



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METROPOLITAN

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan District Committee took place on December 10, 1936. The president, Mr. P. H. Harold, and the vice-presidents were re-elected for the ensuing year and Mr. J. T. Baker was elected chairman.

The report of the Whitleyism Sub-Committee dealt with a conference which had taken place on November 16, with representatives of the Middlesex branches on the proposal to establish a Provincial Whitley Council for that area.

Arrangements in connection with the sixteenth annual reunion concert to be held at the Queen's Hall on January 29 were reported by the Entertainments Sub-Committee; also proposals to hold a Coronation Dance on May 8, 1937. This was referred back to the sub-committee for further consideration.

Grants amounting to £131 5s. from "Help Yourself" revenue were recommended for distribution to seven hospitals in the Metropolitan area. The proposals of the General Purposes Sub-Committee in this connection were approved.

Arising out of a report of the honorary general secretary on the attendance of branch representatives at meetings of the district committee during the past year the divisional secretary was requested to communicate with seven branches which had not been represented at any meeting.

NALGO (Metropolitan District) OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

This is a reminder that the fourth production of the above society is to be presented at the King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, for four nights only, on February 17-20, 1937.

The society has chosen the famous comic opera, "The Mikado" (Gilbert and Sullivan).

Applications for seats are now being received. Do not forget that this society is being run in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and it is an admirable object to assist your own charity.

Prices of admission: Stalls and Circle, 5s., 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d. Side Balcony, 1s. 6d. Apply to the Honorary Business Manager, Mr. W. J. Upton, 12a, Shieldhall Street, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.

NORTH-WESTERN AND NORTH WALES

The annual meeting of the North-Western and North Wales District Committee was held at the town hall, Manchester, on December 12, 1936, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Whinnerah. Mr. C. Nowell, chief librarian, Manchester, president of the Manchester Branch, welcomed the delegates. There were also present Mr. J. W. Singleton, vice-chairman, Mr. J. D. Cannell, honorary treasurer, Mr. F. J. Willett, honorary secretary, and Mr. Haden Corser, divisional secretary, and the following members of the National Executive Council, Messrs. J. W. Wilkinson, J. H. Warren, T. Freeman, C. A. W. Roberts, E. L. Riley, and Miss Iva Stansfield.

The chairman welcomed the return of Mr. F. J. Willett, honorary secretary, who was absent from the last meeting owing to illness.

Mr. L. H. Taylor, Salford, and Mr. J. D. Jones, Rhyl (chairman of the North Wales District Sub-Committee), were elected to represent the district committee at the 1937 annual conference.

District Committees

Mr. T. Freeman submitted the National Executive Council representatives' report, drawing special attention to the details of the reconstruction of the Croyde Bay holiday centre, the education policy, including the announcement of three summer schools to be held in 1937, one at St. Andrews, one at Oxford, and one at Paris, and the reconstruction of the rules of the B. & O. Fund.

The "Alderman Turnbull" shield, which is presented each year to the branch in the district which contributes the highest amount per head of membership to the B. & O. Fund, was won for the second time by the Lancaster Branch, with an average of 18s. per member.

The chairman declared the result of the elections for representatives to serve on the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Whitley Council (Staffs Side) and the general purposes committee of the district.

WEST MIDLAND

It was with great regret that a recent meeting of the executive committee of the West Midland District Committee accepted the resignation of the honorary secretary, Mr. Frank Ollier, who is leaving Stoke-on-Trent to take up an appointment under the South Shields Corporation. Mr. Ollier has held the office of honorary secretary of the district committee for fourteen years, during which time he has given most valuable service to the district. The Association wishes him every success and happiness in the future.

EASTERN

Following upon the annual luncheon held at St. Ermin's Restaurant, S.W.1, the annual meeting of the Eastern District Committee took place on December 12, 1936, there being a record attendance of representatives. The annual report indicated that 5 new branches had been formed during the year and that the membership had increased from 4,081 at the end of 1935 to 4,400 (estimated). Presentations were made to Messrs. E. H. Scarlett and J. Smith on their relinquishment of office respectively as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, and the tributes paid to the services these officers have rendered over a period of many years to the district committee were received with acclamation. A very cordial vote of thanks was also accorded to the retiring chairman, Mr. F. C. Haynes, for his invaluable services in that capacity during the past two years.

Reports on the work of the National Executive Council were presented to the District Committee by Messrs. A. Denton Ogden and E. F. Bacon. A proposal from the Saffron Walden and District Branch that the National Executive Council be requested to revise the present arrangements for booking accommodation at the holiday centres to provide that a certain percentage of accommodation shall be reserved for members of the Association not able to apply for reservations until one month prior to their holiday was approved and adopted.

A collection in aid of the B. & O. Fund realised £1 ros. 8d. and was paid over to the Hoddesdon Branch to supplement its contributions to the Fund. The Eastern District Cup was presented to the Cambridgeshire Branch whose contributions

during the year amounted to £78, an average of 11½ per member. The district committee recorded its sincere appreciation of the promise of additional cups from chief officers of the Norfolk C.C. Branch, and from the Southend-on-Sea Branch.

During the year an area education committee has been established which has already made very considerable progress. Arrangements have been made for a week-end school and the various group committees have considered, and in some cases have made arrangements for, the establishment of courses in local government subjects at their local technical schools and for lectures to branches. The district committee appointed the chairman and Mr. S. W. Edwards as its representatives on the education committee for the ensuing year. Mr. S. W. Edwards has acted as honorary secretary of the area education committee and it is very largely due to his untiring energy that so much progress has been made in a comparatively short time.

At its June meeting the district committee adopted a resolution in favour of the establishment of a Provincial Whitley Council and at the September meeting took a decisive step in asking the National Executive Council to convene a meeting of representatives of local authorities to discuss the matter. The district committee has now resolved to recommend Cambridge as a suitable centre for this meeting.

SOUTH-EASTERN

There was a record attendance at the annual meeting of the South-Eastern District Committee held on December 12, 1936.

The proceedings were opened with the vice-chairman, Mr. W. H. Routly, in the chair.

The area education committee presented a full report of its meeting on November 24, 1936, which the education secretary attended in order to give a talk on the constitution, objects and functions of area education committees. In approving this report the district committee agreed that there is much to be done to establish a movement such as the education committee of the Association contemplated, and to overcome the difficulties peculiar to the South-eastern District.

The annual report gave a comprehensive review of the activities of the district committee during the past year. Of special interest and importance is the membership figure, which on October 31, 1936, was approximately 4,670, which represents an increase of 15 per cent over the figure for the previous year.

In connection with the election of chairman for the coming year a letter was read from Mr. A. Webb, retiring chairman, indicating that in view of his continued ill-health he could not offer himself for re-election.

After Mr. Routly, vice-chairman, had stated that he could not accept the chairmanship, Mr. W. A. N. Baker was appointed to the office.

Presentation of Trophies.

The chairman (Mr. Baker) presented the district committee's sports trophies as follows: Lawn tennis: Gillingham Branch. Bowls: Kent County Public Health Dept. Table Tennis: Brighton Branch. Golf: Mr. Knott (Bexhill Branch).

After the meeting a luncheon was held at the St. Ermin's Restaurant, which was attended by about 50 members. Mr. L. Hill, general secretary, was the guest of the occasion, and gave an interesting talk on his recent experiences in America and Canada.

N.A.L.G.O. FAMILY INCOME ASSURANCE



BENEFITS FOR £1,000 POLICY:—

If Death occurs within 20 Years

- (a) £200 on Death
- (b) £3 per week for remainder of 20 years
- (c) And then £800

OR—

If Death Occurs after 20 Years £1,000 is Payable when it does Occur.

SPECIMEN PREMIUM RATES FOR ABOVE POLICY								
AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY		MONTHLY INSTALMENT (Throughout Life)			ANNUAL PREMIUM (Throughout Life)			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
25		1	10	0	17	11	0	
30		1	15	0	20	9	6	
35		2	4	2	25	16	9	
40		2	12	6	30	14	3	
45		3	8	4	39	19	6	

Quotations for all Classes of Assurance can be obtained from Local Correspondents or direct from

N.A.L.G.O., 24, ABINGDON ST., WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

SOUTHERN and SOUTH-WESTERN

The biennial meeting of the South-Western and Southern district committees took place at Southampton on December 3 and 5. A reception dance was held at the Royal Hotel on Friday evening. Prior to the meetings of the district committees on Saturday morning the representatives were conducted over the civic centre (including the new guildhall now nearing completion) by Sir Sidney Kimber, and they were subsequently received by the Mayor who kindly dispensed hospitality.

South-Western Business

At the business meeting of the South-Western district committee the honorary officers were re-elected for the ensuing year as follow: Chairman, Mr. C. J. Newman; vice-chairman, Mr. P. H. Cole; honorary auditor, Mr. E. W. Deacon; honorary treasurer, Mr. A. G. Billing; honorary secretary, Mr. A. W. Saunders. The membership return for the year showed a considerable increase in the number of members over the figure of 1935. Mr. R. T. Shears, chairman of the B. & O. regional committee, presented a return showing the total contributions made by each branch and also the amount per member; he appealed to branches to do all in their power to augment the fund during the coming year.

The committee approved the recommendation of the executive committee to inform the National Executive Council that it is quite prepared to work a Provincial Whitley Council for the area when such a Council is set up by the employing authorities.

Detailed arrangements were made for the competition for the "Newman" Football Trophy, and the honorary secretary stated that twelve teams had already entered for the competition.

Southern District and Whitleyism

Whitleyism was the principal matter before the Southern district committee, and after representatives had voiced their respective branches' opinion thereon, it was decided to favour the setting up of a Provincial Whitley Council for the Southern area. The chairman of the B. & O. regional committee (Mr. A. V. Kimber) in his report, drew attention to the need of increased support being accorded the Fund by branches, and, on his suggestion, it was resolved to hold a special meeting of the district committee to consider the matter.

Hospitality

At the conclusion of their meetings the representatives of the two committees were entertained to lunch at the Masonic Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman Chick and Mrs. Sly), the Sheriff (Councillor Prince) and Mrs. Prince, and the town clerk (Mr. R. R. H. Meggeson, B.A.) were also present. The Mayor and the chairman of the local branch (Mr. F. L. Waters), who presided, welcomed the representatives, and the chairmen of the respective district committees, Messrs. C. J. Newman (South-Western) and J. E. Arnold (Southern), tendered sincere thanks for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting, and for the hospitality extended.

Tour of Southampton Docks

In the afternoon a large party was conducted over the Southampton Docks by a representative of the Southern

Railway Company. Many interesting things were seen, including the Goldfish Wholesale Distributing Centre where the representatives were enabled to see practically every variety of goldfish extant, and the old White Star Liner "Majestic," now H.M.S. "Caledonia," which will shortly be placed in commission as a training ship. Tea was taken at the Ocean Passenger Refreshment Buffet, where the Sheriff and Mr. C. Tracy (honorary secretary of the Southern district committee and local branch secretary) finally bade farewell to the representatives and Mr. Pratt suitably replied.

SOUTH WALES and MONMOUTHSHIRE

In the unfortunate absence, owing to ill-health, of Mr. Arthur Gould, Dr. Ivy Ruxton presided over the annual general meeting held in the City Hall, Cardiff, on December 12. There was an attendance of 100 representatives.

The first business was the election of Mr. J. W. Clayton (Pontypridd) as chairman for the ensuing year. In thanking the committee, Mr. Clayton said that he had been chairman of many bodies, but no chairmanship had given him more satisfaction and pleasure than the chairmanship of the district committee. He asked for the earnest support of all; he hoped when he gave up the office a year hence he could claim that something substantial had been done. They wanted, among other things, 100 per cent. organisation, and adequate scales of salaries for junior officers in effect in as many authorities as they could possibly persuade. It was only by agitation they could get their status safeguarded and raised. He appealed to all branches to co-operate with the District Committee and the Executive Committee; he hoped to see both Committees overworked, for it was only by organisation they could make progress.

A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring chairman (Mr. Arthur Gould), and of sympathy in his illness was carried unanimously. Mr. H. N. Fitt (Newport) was elected vice-chairman; Mr. Rhys Williams and Mr. F. A. Stephenson were re-elected honorary secretary and honorary treasurer respectively.

Executive and Annual Reports

The executive committee reported that it had approved draft application to local authorities to adopt scales of salaries for juniors; expressed appreciation of an article contributed to the *Western Mail* by the divisional secretary; it also reported that Mr. A. H. Shearn (Newport), a foundation member of the district committee and an ardent member of the Association for over 25 years, was retiring from the service, and that a letter of appreciation of his most valuable service had been sent to Mr. Shearn.

The annual report recorded that five branches had been formed during the year and a substantial increase in membership; and that eight authorities (including Cardigan County Council) had adopted the 1922 Superannuation Act.

District and N.E.C. Activities

The divisional secretary reported that new branches had been formed at Chepstow and Llanelly Rural District Council; on three successful appeals for compensation for loss of office; on salary improvements at Neath; and on a

Ministry of Health inquiry into the administration of the electricity department of the Bridgend Urban District Council.

Mr. G. Llewelyn reported on the work of the National Executive Council, and there was considerable discussion on Whitleyism and the need for an early meeting with the Whitley sub-committee.

The Committee made a contribution of eight guineas to the Lord Mayor of Cardiff Distress Fund.

Hospitality

After the meeting, the representatives were generously entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman H. Hiles, M.B.E., J.P.). In welcoming the representatives to Cardiff, the Lord Mayor said he was delighted to see so many present. He wanted to say something about organisation, because he was connected with another trade union. Organisation existed for the purpose of trying to make things better than individuals acting by themselves could. He had been a member of the salaries and wages committee for 16 years, and there had been many occasions when their officials had tried to wring a few more coppers from that committee. They had often succeeded. They had not, of course, always gone away with everything they had asked for, but the staff had been represented in an admirable manner, and credit was due to their representatives for the way they had invariably put forward their case. He hoped they would go on from success to success.

Plea for Whitleyism

The Lord Mayor commended Whitley Councils, and said he hoped the time was not far distant when they could hold a conference with local authorities to see whether something along those lines could be done in South Wales. He was a member of several wages boards and experience had shown their value.

The Lord Mayor said they were entitled to the membership of every officer, and they would all be glad when there was one organisation to deal with their problems in South Wales. He counselled them to go on with their good work until their ideals were achieved. The Lord Mayor was warmly thanked for his hospitality by Mr. James Williams (Monmouth County Council). The ex-Lord Mayor (Alderman Fred Evans, J.P.) also kindly attended and expressed approval of the Association's work.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMITTEE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION CONCERT and PRESENTATION OF SPORTS TROPHIES

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.1
(Sole Lessees—Chappell & Co., Ltd.)

Friday, 29th January, 1937, at 7-15 p.m.

Artists:

BOB and ALF PEARSON
WEBSTER BOOTH GLADYS RIPLEY
MARIO "HARP" LORENZI
DORIS PALMER RICHARD HASSETT
JEAN HARLEY and GEORGE BARKER
ARTHUR ASKEY PERCY WEST TAYLOR

Area and Grand Circle 2/6.
Balcony 1/6.

Applications for Tickets should be made immediately to your Branch Secretary.
Town Hall, Walthamstow, E.17. PERCIVAL W. BOND, A.C.A.
Hon. Social Secretary.

Nalگو Building Society

Free Service for Readers

Below are given details of properties sale under the Society's free Advertising scheme, which, together with a number of other advantages, are extended to members of the N.A.L.G.O. who obtain mortgages from the Nalگو Building Society.

EDS (Yorks). — Freehold semi-detached property, 4 bed-rooms, 2 reception-rooms, kitchen, scullery, bath, W.C., etc. Good residential area. Plot 45 ft. by 100 ft. No road charges, 2 mins. buses, 7 mins. trams. Pleasantly situated in quiet surroundings, with an open view of the Park. Price £670.—Apply Box No. HPB13, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

BBEY WOOD (S.E.2). — Detached freehold bungalow, 4 rooms, kitchen, bath and cellar. Plot 39 ft. by 150 ft. No road charges. Good residential neighbourhood. Situated on Erith-Woolwich bus route, 10 mins. from station. Vacant possession. Price £760.—Apply Box No. HPB14, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

ONTEFRAC (Yorks). — Semi-detached freehold property, 2 reception-rooms, 3 bed-rooms, kitchen, bath and separate W.C., etc. Plot 29 ft. by 163 ft. Built in good residential quarter—an attractive house in good condition. Price £525.—Apply Box No. HPB15, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

WEST EALING (Middx.). — Freehold house, 3 bed-rooms, 2 reception-rooms, kitchen, scullery, bath, 2 W.C.'s, etc. Good residential area. House in good condition. Plot 18 ft. 6 in. by 78 ft. No road charges. Price £825.—Apply Box No. HPB17, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Society offers advantageous terms to members to enable them to purchase houses, and full particulars can be obtained from the local branch officers, or direct from the secretary, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

NORTH-EASTERN WHITLEY COUNCIL

The town clerk of Newcastle-upon-Tyne has convened a further meeting to be held at the town hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on January 15, 1937, in connection with the proposed North-Eastern Whitley Council, and all authorities in the area have been invited to send representatives and have received a copy of the proposed constitution of the Council.

The town clerk has also invited the attendance of representatives from staff organisations.

At this meeting a formal resolution to establish a Joint Council will be submitted.

A Century in a Day

"A Century of Municipal Progress" can easily be read without undue strain in one day. It is both an absorbing history and a good reference book. Turn to page 12 for an order form.

Salaries and Service Conditions

Superannuation

The following authorities have adopted the Act:

Selby Urban District Council—Appointed Day, January 1, 1937.

Keighley, Bingley and Shipley Joint Hospital Board—Appointed Day, July 1, 1936.

Maidstone Rural District Council—Appointed Day, April 1, 1937.

A formal application for a superannuation scheme has been submitted on behalf of the branch to the **Ossett Borough Council**, and the Council has decided to obtain an actuarial report.

One of the objects of a Bill which the **Taf Fechan Water Supply Board** proposes to promote is "to apply the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, to the Board with necessary adaptations."

The **Chislehurst and Sidcup U.D.C.** has obtained an actuarial report on the cost of adopting the 1922 Act. A recommendation to defer adoption has been referred back to the appropriate committee for further consideration.

Grading

The **Whitefield Urban District Council**, after a recent interview, decided to adopt a model grading scheme submitted by the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council in respect of the salaries of its officers.

Mitcham B.C. has adopted a revised grading scheme under which junior staff are to be appointed at a commencing

salary of £80 at 18 years of age after serving a probationary period. The scale then rises by annual increments of £10 to £150, followed by two increments of £20 and ten of £15 to a maximum of £340 a year. This scale is to be applied to all general staff and there are further scales applicable to other appointments.

Review of Salaries

The finance committee of the **Liverpool Corporation** has agreed that there shall be an annual review of salaries in all departments, instead of the present irregular and departmental review.

Office Hours

The co-ordination committee of the **Liverpool Corporation** has agreed that the corporation offices shall be closed at 12 noon on Saturdays as from December 5, 1936, instead of 1 o'clock, as previously

Whitleyism

The **Ipswich C.B.C.** has approved the establishment of a local joint committee and negotiations are proceeding as to the methods by which the staff side is to be constituted.

Leave of Absence

As a result of an application submitted at the request of the branch, the **Wakefield City Council** has decided to grant compensating leave of absence to officers engaged on evening committee work, subject to such leave of absence being arranged at a time convenient to the departments concerned.

Movement of Members

Mr. T. SHAW, West Bromwich, to Chief Accountancy Assistant, Luton.
Mr. H. J. KNOWLES, Derby, to Chief Architectural Assistant, Hampshire C.C.
Mr. R. P. MILLS, Derby, to Senior Architectural Assistant, Southend C.B.
Mr. N. E. BUTLER, Walsall, to Audit Clerk, Wednesday B.
Mr. H. HAYES, Birmingham, to Cross Visitor in Public Assistance Department, Portsmouth.
Mr. J. LOGAN, Leicestershire (Market Harborough), to Amptill Institution, Bedfordshire C.C.
Mr. J. BARNES, Walthamstow B.C., to Town Planning Officer, Wanstead and Woodford U.D.C.
Mr. A. T. DAVEY, Greenwich M.B.C., to Clacton U.D.C.
Mr. J. GOUGH, Dagenham U.D.C., to Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, Hornchurch U.D.C.
Mr. E. R. BUCHAN, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., to Engineering Assistant, Hove B.C.
Mr. D. A. J. LYONS, Crayford U.D.C., to General Clerk, Kent C.C.
Mr. J. WILSON, Sutton and Cheam B.C., to Deputy Borough Surveyor, Blyth B.C.
Mr. A. J. HARRIS, Hendon B.C., to Engineering Assistant, Willissen B.C.
Mr. A. W. MYERS, Chislehurst and Sidcup U.D.C., to Finance and Rating Department, Leatherhead U.D.C.
Mr. E. W. R. DAY, Benfleet and District Branch, to Assistant Clerk, Saltburn and Marske-by-the-Sea U.D.C.
Mr. H. PETTINGALE, Southgate B.C., to 2nd Class Engineering Assistant, Willissen B.C.
Mr. C. T. SAUNDERS, Chingford U.D.C., to Engineering Assistant, Chelmsford B.C.
Mr. L. H. BELAM, Southgate B.C., to Architectural Assistant, Norwich C.B.C.
Mr. W. L. MORRIS, Westminster M.B.C., to Sanitary Inspector, Tottenham B.C.
Miss J. FOSTER, L.C.C., to Ward Sister, Preston Hospital, North Shields, Tynemouth C.B.C.
Mr. G. V. CORNEY, North Herts Branch, to Assistant Clerk, Ware U.D.C.
Mr. A. C. ADLINGTON, Ramsgate B., to City Engineer, Lincoln.
Mr. F. H. THOMAS, Havant and Waterloo U., to Town Planning Assistant, Gloucester C.C.
Mr. T. E. MORRIS, Oxford C.B. to Draughtsman Manshead.

Mr. R. E. HETHERINGTON, Oxford C.B., to Engineering Assistant, Tunbridge Wells.
Mr. R. R. CHAPLIN, Hants C.C. to Surveyor's Department, Derbyshire C.C.
Mr. D. H. MCKERCHAR, Bognor Regis, to Draughtsman, Sutton and Cheam B.
Mr. A. L. THOMAS, Hants C.C., to Engineer at Newhaven Institution, East Sussex.
Mr. F. H. ELDRIDGE, Berks C.C. (Br.), to Architectural Assistant, East Sussex.
Mr. E. G. HARDING, Paignton (Br.), to Surveyor's Assistant, Portcawl.
Mr. E. H. LEISTEN, East Grinstead, to Engineering Assistant, Farnborough U.
Mr. G. F. WEBB, Wilts C.C., to County Library, Durham C.C.
Mr. LEWIS, Isle of Thanet (Br.), to Building Surveyor, Chipping Sodbury R.
Mr. R. W. SAUNDERS, Dover, to Engineering Assistant, Watford.
Mr. R. CAMPBELL, Aldershot (Br.), to Assistant Surveyor's Department, Farnham.
Mr. and Mrs. KENT, Kent C.C., to Master and Matron, Staffs C.C.
Mr. D. O. WILLIS, Newbury (Br.), to Clerk, Juvenile Employment Bureau, Wembley, Middlesex C.C.
Miss M. J. ATKINS, Reigate, to Bailiff, Luton B.
Miss M. J. BAXTER, Kent C.C., to P.A. Institution, Maidenhed, Berks C.C.
Mr. R. A. EVANS, Bebington, to Engineering Assistant, Blackburn C.B.
Mr. J. HUSTWIT, Bebington, to 1st Engineering Assistant, Mansfield B.
Mr. J. BYROM, Bury, to School Dentist, Bucks C.C.
Mr. W. BOWDELL, Bury, to Chief Accountancy Assistant, Swinton and Pendlebury B.
Mr. A. DALE, Fleetwood, to Chief Sanitary Inspector, Kuncorn U.D.C.
Mr. S. R. LEE, Halifax, to Town Planning Assistant, Liverpool C.B.
Mr. F. HAMNETT, Huddersfield, to Alsager U.D.C.
Mr. G. CHARNLEY, Lancaster, to Sanitary Inspector, Lancaster R.D.C.
Mr. G. E. H. ALLEN, Liverpool, to Architect's Department, Lancashire C.C.
Mr. R. H. JOHNSTON, Lytham St. Anne's, to Engineering Assistant, Nelson B.
Mr. T. DIXON, Middlesbrough, to Architectural Assistant, Bolton C.B.
Mr. N. C. WHITAKER, Morecambe, to Engineering Assistant, Newport B.
Mr. T. DUNCAN, Rochdale, to Town Planning Assistant, Southend C.B.
Mr. G. EGLES, Rotherham, to Deputy Borough Treasurer, Birkenhead B.
Mr. R. EXLEY, Rotherham, to Rating and Valuation Clerk, Lancaster B.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:

24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary, and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHitehall 9351 (6 lines).

Telegrams: Natassoc Parl, London.

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Immediate Past President:

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ACCOUNTANT: H. G. Baker.

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EDUCATION SECRETARY: H. Slater, B.Sc. (Econ.), F.C.I.S.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY: H. Wright

Divisional Secretaries:

Metropolitan and Eastern Districts and London County Council Branch—T. M. Kershaw, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1 Telephone: WHitehall 9351.

North-Western and North Wales District—Haden Corser, 2, Mount Street, Manchester. Telephone: Blackfriars 7668.

North-Eastern and Yorkshire Districts—W. Cecil Wood, 12, East Parade, Leeds. Telephone: Leeds 24861.

East Midland, West Midland, and South Wales District—J. E. N. Davis, York House, Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Telephone: Central 1836.

South-Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Districts—F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset House, Reading. Telephone: Reading 3880. Scottish District—J. M. Mortimer, 67, West Nile Street, Glasgow. Telephone: Douglas 404.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

DECEMBER 9

92/AS/36

(To each local correspondent of the Approved Society.)

(a) Enclosing contribution cards for the 1/37 period, together with lists, expenses forms, new record cards, a copy of the minutes of the annual general meeting, 1936, and supply of notices for members.

(b) Requesting prompt return of all cards which cannot be delivered to the member.

(c) Concerning claims for sickness benefit.

(d) Concerning claims for additional benefits.

(e) Concerning the forwarding of cards and the claiming of local correspondents' expenses.

93/AS/36

(To each local correspondent of the Approved Society.)

Regarding eligibility of members of the Society for additional benefits.

DECEMBER 10

94/NPS/36

(To each local correspondent of the Provident Society.)

(a) Enclosing expenses form.

(b) Regarding audit of pass books.

(c) Enclosing a supply of the monthly return forms in booklet form.

(d) Appealing for new members of sickness section.

(e) Regarding claims for benefit under the Hospital and Nursing Home scheme and enclosing a supply of explanatory leaflets for circulation amongst members.

95/NPS/36

(To each local correspondent of the Provident Society.)

(a) Concerning payment and forwarding of members' subscriptions.

(b) Concerning payment of management fees.

DECEMBER 11

96/Gen./36

(To each branch secretary.)

Regarding the appointment of an assistant solicitor in the legal department of the Association.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 14, 15, 16.—N.A.L.G.O. Examinations.

January 31.—First quarterly return of alterations in Register of Membership.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: July, 46; August, 46; September, 47; October, 48; November, 51; December, 51. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Food	32	36	36
Rent	59	59	59
Clothing .. .	90	90	90
Fuel and Light ..	75	75	75
Other Items ..	70	70	70

INDEX TO "LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE," VOLUME XVI

January, 1935, to December, 1936

A copy of the index to Volume XVI of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE will be sent to each branch secretary during the early part of this month, and may be consulted on application to him. A limited number of copies of the index can be supplied on application to headquarters.

HOLIDAY GUIDE, 1937

The 30th January, 1937, is the last date for recommendations of holiday addresses to be received for insertion in the 1937 issue of the Nalgo Holiday Guide.

We wish to express our appreciation to those members who have already forwarded addresses of holiday establishments, and at the same time we should like to reiterate our request for a further number of reliable addresses (especially London and Continental).

Write out your recommendation now and send it to N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Please do not forget to state the branch of N.A.L.G.O. of which you are a member.

MAKE A NOTE— in your N.A.L.G.O. diary

HOLIDAY CENTRES AND CRUISE

RE-UNION

• LONDON (7 p.m.-12 p.m.)

AT HARRODS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1937

• LEEDS (8 p.m. - 1 a.m.)

AT THE TOWN HALL, LEEDS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1937

Tickets 2/6 each

Apply N.A.L.G.O.
24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

ORDER FORM

"A CENTURY OF MUNICIPAL PROGRESS" Price £1 1 0

To the GENERAL SECRETARY, N.A.L.G.O.,

24, Abingdon Street,

Westminster, S.W.1.

"... must imperatively be read by every local government officer, high or low, as the indispensable basis of his professional culture"—SIDNEY WEBB.

Please send me.....copy(ies) of "A Century of Municipal Progress" for which I am enclosing a remittance for £ :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Advertisement Offices: A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24-26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4, to whom all advertisement communications should be addressed. Replies to Box Nos. must be sent to A. Darby's Advertising Service. Telephones: City 6686 and 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London.

1936 and 1937

AN eminent authority has said that history should be interpreted by reference to movements and not to time, since the calendar's cycle has very little bearing upon either the progress or the deterioration of any institution. But it would be an interesting experiment, even if it were not productive of any result, to be able to write a history of the Association, leaving off at December 31, 1936. For 1936 has been such an exciting year, it has been full of movement, the barometer of national affairs has been anything but steady; at one time, there was a strong possibility that the needle would fluctuate violently, but the year closed with an indication that the weather would be fair in 1937.

Let us take a rapid glance at the past year and try to gauge what is in store for us, always bearing in mind that conditions these days have a nasty habit of turning *volte face* before we know where we are.

In the first place, the circular letter issued from the Ministry of Health at the end of March on the subject of the "Hadow" Report—that blueprint of local government to which we have pinned our faith and our hopes—was a rude shock. It seemed then that the improvements suggested by Sir Henry Hadow and his colleagues, after they had made such an exhaustive survey of the existing conditions appertaining to local government, were merely to be pigeonholed and conveniently forgotten. But what happened? Without any warning, the Minister of Health himself "got going" during the early days of November. A conference of representatives of local authorities' associations, the London County Council, and N.A.L.G.O. was called for the express purpose of meeting the Minister and discussing with him the steps to be taken to set up the central advisory committee, which was the main plank in the platform of the "Hadow" Committee. A sub-committee was appointed to draft a programme for this central committee. What that programme will reveal will decide N.A.L.G.O.'s attitude. N.A.L.G.O. is committed to Whitleyism, and whether the "advisory" committee can do something which is outside "Whitleyism" remains to be seen.

Removal of Injustice

And what of superannuation? After years of hard work and intensive effort,

we were told last March that the Government itself intended to promote the Compulsory Bill. In November, this statement was borne out in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament, but how near was the possibility of that

A THOUGHT FOR 1937

The New Year is popularly regarded as the time for making resolutions, but before the end of the first month has arrived, the enthusiasm for the resolution has waned; it has been stored in the recesses of memory, to be brought out, dusted, and used again at the beginning of the following year. But to local government officers, the new year, *per se*, has little bearing upon a determination to progress, for progress is inherent in their employment. Without progress, the social services would be meaningless, and, being meaningless, would fail. Thus, the thought of progress must be constantly in our minds, it must animate our actions and must dominate our attitude to our employers, our colleagues, and the general public. In wishing his readers a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, the Editor asks them to remember throughout 1937 that

A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;

An hour may lay it in the dust.

promise not being fulfilled very few people realised. It is all a matter of history now and we may look forward with quiet confidence to the passing of legislation during 1937 which will remove one of the greatest injustices under

which the local government service has laboured for so long.

A Promise of Rich Fulfilment

And Whitleyism? It cannot be gainsaid that the tide is running with us. Yeoman work has been done by the National Executive Council and in the districts during 1936. Intensive propaganda is beginning to tell. The objectors in our ranks are becoming fewer and fewer. In Scotland, the machinery is there, and the first meeting of the Whitley Council will probably be held in the early days of the new year. In the North-Eastern District it is expected that the formal resolution to set up a Provincial Council will be passed at a meeting on January 15. All along the line converts are being made to this most desirable form of negotiation, and the year dawns with a promise of rich fulfilment of the policy of the Association so strenuously advocated these sixteen years.

Appreciation of Public Administration

Perhaps the most important event in the realm of the Association's educational activities, planned in 1936 as part of the 1937 programme, is the decision to hold a summer school in Paris. This is an entirely new departure; it has been made possible only by the success which has attended previous summer schools; and, if it should prove to be what its organisers hope it will be, then one of the greatest steps forward in the teaching and appreciation of public administration will have been taken during this year. And so we could go on.

Increasing Tempo

And so we could go on, flashing back through 1936, looking forward into 1937, realising that whilst the history of the movement is of fundamental importance, the chronological history does enable us to measure one period with another, to appreciate that some years have more significance than others and, whilst it may not be strictly fair to devalue N.A.L.G.O.'s work on a time basis, yet, nevertheless, one must admit that the tempo is increasing, especially under those headings which have been grouped together and called the "bread-and-butter" policy.

1937—A Turning Point?

With 1937 a new reign is born. His Majesty King George VI comes to the throne, assured of the loyalty and support of the Association and all that it means in the realm of local government, and if the dark clouds which are creeping up on the horizon can be dispelled by co-operation and good will, then the year before us should be a turning point, as much in the affairs of N.A.L.G.O. as in the wider spheres of international and national relationships.

THE Scottish District Committee met in Glasgow on December 12, when there was a large attendance. Mr. A. G. M. Archibald presided. It was the annual meeting and the report submitted was of a very gratifying nature. It showed that the membership had increased by at least 500 and that a record number of local authorities had adopted superannuation schemes, all of them giving favourable terms for non-contributory service. It commented also on the success of the Scottish summer school and our other educational activities. It showed that increased interest was being taken in the Benevolent and Orphan Fund and in the subsidiary societies. The report was adopted as was also the financial statement submitted by Mr. J. Weir Neilson, the honorary treasurer.

A minute of the executive committee dealing chiefly with representation on the staff side of the Whitley Council was discussed at some length, and it was finally agreed to leave the matter with powers in the hands of the executive, as certain delicate negotiations had yet to be undertaken.

Mr. John Campbell, the convener of the education committee, in submitting his minutes for approval, stated that the summer school next year would be held at St. Andrews University in the week July 3 to 10. The principal lecturers would, in all likelihood, be Dr. Robson, lecturer in Industrial and Administrative Law at the London School of Economics, and Professor Paul Vaucher, Professor of Modern French History and Institutions in the University of London. He also referred to a new course of tuition in registration law, which is now being prepared.

Mr. Robert Anderson submitted a minute of the law and parliamentary committee which dealt with the question of the inclusion of registrars in the new Superannuation Bill at present being drafted. The minute also referred to three legal cases, one of which had been successfully disposed of and two of which were still pending. A test appeal in connection with a compensation case was also still pending. An interesting point was raised by Mr. Donaldson of the Eastern Border Counties Branch regarding the rate of contribution to the superannuation fund. He pointed out that actuaries, reporting on the Scottish teachers' fund, considered that 9 per cent might meet the liabilities, whereas the actuaries reporting on a corresponding fund for the English teachers thought 12 per cent was necessary. It was agreed that this information should be kept in view, when the rate of contribution was under discussion.

Mr. Adams, the representative of the district committee to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association, gave an interesting report of the work of that body and suggested that affiliation should be continued since it was a source of benefit to the younger members.

The present office-bearers were re-elected for the ensuing year. Mr. Campbell was continued as convener of the education committee, Mr. Duncan Galbraith as convener of the propaganda committee, and Mr. H. D. Ferguson was appointed convener of the law and parliamentary committee. Mr. Brodie was continued as sports secretary and Mr. James A. Scott as thrift secretary.

Presentation to Mr. Hugh Begg

After the business, the members met in a social capacity to do honour to Mr.

Scottish Notes

Hugh Begg, F.R.C.V.S., the ex-chairman of the district committee. Mr. A. G. M. Archibald presided and, in presenting Mr. Begg with a sectional bookcase and Mrs. Begg with a handsome handbag, he referred to the excellent work of the guest of the evening. Mr. Begg had now retired from the service and had therefore to demit office as chairman. He had been intimately associated with Mr. Begg for many years and could speak with knowledge of his sterling qualities. They all knew his excellent work for the Association during his eight years as chairman of the committee, but he could speak with more knowledge than most of them of his excellent qualities as an entertaining and genial companion. He had seldom known a man so deeply interested in his professional work. It was no wonder that he had attained to eminence in the veterinary world. Sometimes he had jocularly to remind him when he offered professional advice that we humans were slightly different from his other patients. His keenness on his work was perhaps best



MR. HUGH BEGG

illustrated by the fact that after his retirement he undertook an intensive course of study in some obscure aspects of veterinary science. To Mrs. Begg also they wished to convey their respects and good wishes. She had been amongst them on several occasions and they all admired her gracious, kindly disposition. Mr. Robert Anderson, chief public assistance officer for Lanarkshire, Mr. George S. Fraser, town clerk of Aberdeen, Mr. George S. Barry, county road surveyor of Ayrshire, and Mr. John Campbell, chief public assistance officer for Stirlingshire were amongst others who paid tribute to Mr. Begg's eminent services both to the Association and to the public health services of the country. Mr. Begg, in reply, expressed his warmest thanks for the all too kind things that had been said about him and his wife, and for the handsome gifts which had been presented to them. These gifts would serve as constant reminders of his happy association with his many friends in N.A.L.G.O. No one rejoiced more than he did at the continued progress of the Association. Lanarkshire Branch, of which he had been chairman since its inception, had increased from less than 100 to well over 600, and in Scotland during the past eight years the membership had increased by over 2,000. He had

thoroughly enjoyed his work as chairman of the Scottish District Committee, and as a member of the National Executive. He thanked them most heartily for their indulgence during his term of office and he wished also to thank their very able secretary, Mr. Mortimer, for his good work and assistance during all these years.

Annual Meetings

The first meeting was in **Dumfries** where a good report showed that a superannuation scheme had been adopted by the burgh which gave 80ths for back service. The question of grading was also under consideration.

Next day came the meeting in **Paisley** where the report showed an increase of 15 in the membership.

Wigtownshire meeting was held at Stranraer. There also a favourable report was submitted and it is understood that the County Council has now decided to obtain an actuarial report.

The **Fife** annual meeting held in Kirkcaldy was addressed by Brigadier-General Crosbie, vice-chairman of the County Council, and the organising secretary attended this meeting and delivered an address which was much appreciated.

The **Glasgow** annual meeting was held on November 23. Between 400 and 500 attended and Dr. Macgregor, the medical officer of health for the city, presided. The annual report showed a net increase in membership of 110, which brings the membership of the branch to well over 2,000.

The Branch for the **Stewartry of Kirkcudbright** was the next visited. The report showed that, in connection with a law case in which members had been involved, substantial legal aid had been given by headquarters.

The **Lanarkshire** meeting, held on November 25, was very largely attended. Mr. R. C. T. Mair, M.C., LL.B., occupied the chair. The annual report submitted was of a gratifying nature and showed an increase of 68 in the membership.

The **Dumbartonshire** meeting, held the following day, was the largest yet held in the history of the branch. An excellent report was submitted showing an increase of 40 in the membership, that the Burgh of Clydebank had adopted a superannuation scheme and other service conditions had been dealt with.

On the same evening the **Greenock** Branch meeting also took place and the divisional secretary addressed a large and interested meeting.

The **Edinburgh** meeting was held on November 27, when there was a good attendance. The annual report showed an increase of 20 in the membership and was in other respects of a gratifying nature.

Ayrshire Branch held its meeting on December 2. The report submitted showed an increase of 30 in membership, that a superannuation scheme had been adopted by the County Council, and that 60ths were being paid for non-contributory service.

The **Dundee** annual meeting was very largely attended. A very gratifying annual report was submitted, which showed that during the year the Council had adopted a superannuation scheme and had decided to give at least 80ths for non-contributory service. A presentation of a beautiful lamp was made to Mr. James Penny, the honorary secretary, for his excellent work in connection with negotiations for superannuation.

What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

FUTURE OF STATE EDUCATION

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—While you are no doubt quite within your rights in describing the address of Mr. Bertrand Russell, M.A., F.R.S., as "one of the most outstanding pronouncements on the future development of State education," you will doubtless acknowledge that such a description is a matter of opinion.

In the address as published by you Mr. Russell is reported as having said: "Before the days when schooling was compulsory, most of those who could read and write were fairly well educated; but now, though everybody has been taught to read, most people have been taught little else." Assuming this assertion is justified, the words "to read" are not here to be taken as being interpreted or construed in the Baconian sense to weigh and consider. They are simply referred to in the limited sense in which Mr. Russell has used them. No one with experience, or possessing a knowledge of the products of Elementary schools would dream of crediting the prevailing system with achieving anything in the Baconian sense of reading. The truth is that, even the majority of those who, through fortuitous circumstances, receive the alleged benefits of a Secondary education and a university training are aliens in the realm which Bacon's philosophy visualises.

It might have been assumed that when Mr. Russell set out to illustrate the colossal ignorance of the wage-earning class, he would in passing have exposed the reasons for the deplorable conditions of affairs.

The wage-earning class will never be emancipated from the conditions resulting from the prevailing system of education by the simple process of raising the school-leaving age. All the drivel of so-called educationists regarding the extension of the school-leaving age is merely evidence of crooked thinking. To start reforming education by raising the school-leaving age is to start at the wrong end. True, the case for such reform is unanswerable, but it would be sheer folly under the prevailing conditions in elementary schools. Even Mr. Russell's illustrations of the ignorance of the wage-earning class are not an argument—at least, not a logical argument—for prolonging compulsory education. It is an argument for introducing sane methods into a system which, as Mr. Russell by implication acknowledges, and as results testify, is stupid.

It would be quite a simple matter to demonstrate that apart from the many evidences of crooked thinking in Mr. Russell's address his outlook on education is vitiated by the "stations in life" philosophy so pronounced among folk who venture to make pronouncements on educational policy. If education were an exact science the average layman might

be diffident to express opinions thereon. But education is not an exact science. Moreover, what is termed the system of education in this country embodies all the outstanding evils of all the human effort to direct education of which mankind has historical knowledge. It may be urged that this condemnation is too sweeping. Nevertheless, an impartial survey of the education of past civilisations reveals in every case a sense of status. True, while the outlook of Milton and Locke would have set a ring fence round the culture of a superior class, the sense of status is alien to Comenius, Pestalozzi, and Froebel. Still, the theories of the really great educationists have been more or less perverted in practice, since there never has been a genuine desire in any society for equality of education. It must with regret be admitted that in this age education is devoid of idealism (unless educating a child in the hope that in manhood it will escape from its class is regarded as an ideal).

The truth is, the only sane feature of educational policy in this country is that part of the administration set up for the education of the mental defectives. The State, on admittedly humanitarian grounds, has committed itself to the development and training of any faculty the feeble-minded child may possess. Instead of mass production as in the case of the normal child, individual contact is not only recognised but is encouraged as a means of drawing out the faculties. In view of these facts it appears to be somewhat ironical that the State should make special provision to educate the feeble-minded on lines which suggest a glimmering notion of the real function of education, and, at the same time, wholly neglect the normal child who cannot be moulded into a stock pattern. It should be observed that the feeble-minded child is approached as he should be approached. He is approached as an individual entity. His faculties are admittedly limited, but notwithstanding that fact his education is devised to train him to make the best of the faculties he possesses. The normal child, whatever his faculties, is not so trained unless in so far as they help him to fit into the prescribed bureaucratic scheme. Of course, truth, as truth, has always been unpalatable even before the days of "Jesting Pilate." In fact, mankind has become so accustomed to having truth purveyed as diluted and adulterated mixtures served up and camouflaged in tinsel wrappings that the enunciation of truth comes to be regarded as stranger than fiction.

Aristotle referring to the lack of agreement on the principles of education in his age expresses doubts as to whether education should aim at the development of the intellect or the moral character, although later on he contends that the real test of a man's education is how he spends his leisure time. Herbert Spencer

on the other hand, left on record his opinion that to prepare us for a complete living is the function which education has to discharge, and the only rational mode of judging of an educational course is to judge in what degree it discharges such function. Strangely enough, as if to prove that education in this country is one of the conventional lies of our modern civilisation, the Royal Commission set up to investigate the teaching of English in England in the course of an interesting report averred: "It is still true that in this country we have no general or rational system of education." . . . In general, it may not unfairly be said that education is regarded as a suitable occupation for the years of childhood with the further object of equipping the nature in some vague and little understood way for the struggle of adult existence in a world of material interests.

In view of these considerations the present writer does not regard Mr. Russell's address as an outstanding pronouncement. Doubtless there will be difference of opinion among your readers, but an honest to goodness discussion on education as presently prevailing, and the possibility of its reform in the hope of ensuring the growth of an enlightened democracy in the interests of the State, would be a topic for which you could with profit devote space in your columns.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN A. FRASER.

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE CALL FOR TESTIMONIALS

11c, Selbourne Gardens,
Watford Way, Hendon, N.W.4.
5. 12. 36.

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I am of the opinion that the practice of supplying three testimonials should be discontinued.

Original testimonials are not usually supplied to employees to carry about, and, therefore, one is unable to supply copies, except on application to "prev." employers, who prefer to communicate direct with prospective employer.

Incidentally, the same procedure applies to "present" employment.

A personal testimonial "to whom it may concern," is an antiquated but effete motion.

Copies are easily obtained and avoid repetition of application to past and present employers.

It is a delicate subject to pursue, for one has to bear in mind that in commercial activity, repeated efforts by an employee to obtain alternative employment would obviously impress the employer that there was dissatisfaction, and the efforts to improve one's position would be looked upon unfavourably.

Personal references should be given to all employees for past services and "current" service should be deemed to be entirely satisfactory, and only if applicant is amongst the group selected for final interview, contact with present employer should be brought about.

I am afraid that if the question of replying to a prospective employer was left to the opinion of one individual, personal animosity might endanger the prospects of a fair opinion, and the onus of this responsibility should not be that of the head of the department, but should be shared.

F. W. LUPTON.

"HOUSE-OWNERSHIP"

your aim for 1937

During the coming year many members of N.A.L.G.O. appreciating the advantages of *owning* their houses, will take advantage of the facilities for house-purchase which are offered (to Local Government Officers only) by the Nalgo Building Society.

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General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Adventure in Travel.

"**Flight to Hell**," by Hans Bertram (Hamilton, 10s. 6d.), is an account by the author of the disastrous flight across Asia to Australia some four years ago. He and his pilot disappeared during a night flight, and though a thorough search was made, they were given up as lost. They were found some six weeks after leaving home by aborigines in Northern Australia. The journey and their terrible sufferings are described. Later Bertram flew his machine back home. — F. Yeats-Brown's descriptive powers as a writer are well-known. In "**Lancer at Large**" (Gollancz, 10s. 6d.) he gives us more first-hand knowledge of recent events in India by way of his own experiences. — In contrast to India's heat "**Trap-lines North**" (Harrap, 7s. 6d.) is told by Stephen Meader from the diary of a young woodsman in Ontario, written in the woods during his winter trapping expedition. — Mr. H. V. Morton's travel books have created a reading public which his new book will not disappoint. "**In the Steps of St. Paul**" (Rich & Cowan, 7s. 6d.) recounts the experiences of the writer in following the exact lines of St. Paul's missionary journeys. Mr. Morton made four visits to the district concerned before completing his book; he travels with his eyes open and in addition to his personal travel-experiences the book has much information of service to the student. — If further contrast by way of change of scene is desired "**Jungle Lindsay; the Life and Adventures of Hector Lindsay**" (S. Low, 12s. 6d.) will supply it. It is another wanderlust record of the hectic type. The son of a Scottish herring fisherman, Lindsay started his career in a circus, is shipwrecked in the Pacific, captured by cannibals in the Cameroons, and takes America, France, Africa, and China in his stride; his experiences were many and varied and of the hair-breadth type.

Biography.

Emily is considered by many good critics to be the most brilliant member of the famous Brontë family. Virginia Moore in "**The Life and Eager Death of Emily Brontë**" (Rich & Cowan, 18s.) brings to light many facts concerning her character, ability and life. The book is a very complete account of her as woman, author and sister. — Jack Lawson's life of "**Peter Lee**" (Hodder & Stoughton, 5s.) is a picture of a miner's life and work on behalf of his fellows. Peter rose from miner to President of the Miners' Federation. He was a forceful character and displayed a determination in his efforts to secure better conditions for his fellow-workers which will not be soon forgotten. — The life story of a governess in the early days of the 19th century is very charmingly told in "**Miss Weeton: Journal of a Governess, 1807-1811**." Edited by E. Hall (O.U.P., 12s. 6d.). The scene of her activities is chiefly Lancashire — the neighbourhood of Upholland, Liverpool and Ambleside.

Pot Pourri.

The title of Aldous Huxley's latest volume of essays is taken from the last one in the book "**The Olive Tree**" (Chatto, 7s. 6d.). The collection is general but there are excellent biographical studies notably of T. H. Huxley, D. H. Lawrence and, perhaps best of all, of B. R. Haydon the artist. — "**When Night Comes**," by Ian Davison (Jenkins, 10s. 6d.), is not easy to describe in a few words. There is no connected theme nor are the remembrances of the autobiographical type; rather chapters of incidents, sketches and word paintings very delightfully done. — A. G. Street is more chatty and less inclined to economic dullness in "**Moonraking**" (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 7s. 6d.) than in many of his other books. It is, of course, all about farming, the country, country life and character, but he deals with these things in a light vein in this entertaining book. — Mr. Wilfred Macartney describes in "**Walls Have Mouths**" (Gollancz, 8s. 6d.) life behind prison walls. He has not long been released and is using his freedom to fight Fascism in Spain. The record is of ten years' penal servitude. Mr. Compton Mackenzie gives comments on the chapters.

Sports.

Some of the greatest players and best writers on Rugby football have contributed the articles which make up "**The Game Goes On**" Edited by H. B. T. Wakelam (Barker, 15s.). The book is well illustrated and the articles cover points in play and famous club records. — Christmas seems the wrong time for books on cricket, but my own experience and the prominence given to the Test Team matches in the Press go to prove that a good cricketing book is always welcome. Mr. D. R. Jardine is qualified to write on the subject; his book entitled "**Cricket**" (Dent, 6s.) in "Modern Sports" series deals with the technique of the game principally, but has a chapter of touring reminiscences. — Finally, A. Padgham's "**The Par Golf Swing**" (Routledge, 3s. 6d.) is sufficiently instructive to put any reader off his game before putting him on it—if it ever does. At any rate the blame will not be Padgham's.

(Continued from next column.)

N.A.L.G.O. claims that all its work, aims, and aspirations are directed to the advancement, the improvement, and the prestige of local government, that local government which has won for itself a reputation which is envied by local government of every nation all over the earth."

Mr. J. W. Singleton, vice-chairman of the district, proposed the toast of our guests.

Mr. J. Butterfield responding, said: "Only those who have retired from the service can appreciate the joy of coming back occasionally into the atmosphere of N.A.L.G.O., that atmosphere which has created a comradeship amongst over ninety thousand members of the local government service.

North-Western District Dinner

The twelfth annual dinner of the North-Western and North Wales District Committee was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on December 12, following the annual meeting of the district. Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, chairman of the district committee, presided, and the chief guests were the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Alderman J. Toole, J.P.), the Mayor of Salford (Councillor P. Ashcroft, J.P.), Mr. W. E. Lloyd (president of the National Association), Councillor J. Butterfield, of Liverpool, W. H. Legh-Smith, city treasurer, Liverpool, and Mr. C. Nowell, chief librarian, Manchester, and president of the local branch.

The toast of "The Local Authorities" was proposed by Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E., member of the National Executive Council, who, in the course of his remarks, said: "It is a remarkable fact in the life of the people of this island that international crises come and go, national crises come and go; but local government goes steadily on. The day when the local government officer drifted into his job is long past. Local government officers to-day believe in their jobs, they do not apologise for them. With tact and friendship has been evolved the great local government service as we know it."

The Lord Mayor, responding to the toast of the local authorities, expressed his respect and affection for local government officials, and recalled that his first stand for trade union rates of pay was for £3,000 a year, instead of £2,500 for a town clerk of the city. He had had Parliamentary experience and always regarded it as a mistake to suppose that democracy worked through Parliament. It worked through the local authorities. Parliament would have to be remodelled some day on the lines of the local councils.

The Mayor of Salford (Councillor P. Ashcroft, J.P.) proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O." and complimented the Association on its many activities, particularly its benevolent efforts.

Mr. W. E. Lloyd, president of the National Association, responding, said that the National Executive Council endeavoured to promote the welfare of its members in every conceivable way. "It is true that we do everything for the welfare of our members," he said, "but I think perhaps our true aim is to encourage local government officers to fit themselves for the highest specialised duties which they are required to perform in the numerous departments and services of local authorities. To that end we have introduced educational facilities, we have our correspondence courses and hold our examinations, we offer diplomas, and run summer schools. I will conclude by saying that N.A.L.G.O. does not approve of the appointment of unqualified officers. N.A.L.G.O. desires local authorities to have the very best qualified men and to observe as far as may be convenient, the recommendations of the Hadow Report. N.A.L.G.O.'s efforts are a generous and valuable contribution to local government. N.A.L.G.O. assists local authorities in providing and maintaining efficient and contented staffs in return for reasonable conditions of service, security of tenure, and superannuation.

(Continued in previous column.)

THE ANNUAL REPORTS SHOW

That **Batley** local joint committee has just "got going" and a salary scale submitted by the staff side is under consideration. So is Circular 1525. Membership almost 100 per cent. B. & O. position not so good.

Thirty-six more members, making total of nearly 400 for **Blackburn**. Employment of temporary assistants on permanent posts in Collecting Hall abolished. Whitley Council scale of salaries being talked about. Superannuation again not adopted. Branch says "local antagonism difficult to understand." He agrees. B. & O. membership now 75 per cent. Good, but not good enough.

Certificate of exemption from Unemployment Insurance obtained by **Bognor Regis** Branch. Membership increasing. B. & O. nearly 100 per cent. Socials good. Everybody happy.

"In almost all cases (of service conditions and legal advice) the questions under consideration have been dealt with to the entire satisfaction of the members concerned" at **Bolton** where membership has risen to new record of 736. B. & O. position improving.

"All quiet on the **Bury** front." Membership still improving, but much good work yet to be done. B. & O. supported by 66 per cent—another 34 per cent required.

That 45 new members enrolled at **Edinburgh**, where "there still exists room for great improvement" and where lectures on historical surveys of corporation departments is being continued this winter. Good activity, this.

Great activity in **Liverpool**, particularly on the service conditions front and there is a continuous record of achievement in status, individual and departmental cases. Membership now nearly 3,000, over 200 more than last year.

Revised scheme of annual holidays satisfactorily settled at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, where membership is now 635, 427 of whom are members of B. & O. Sports and socials well to the fore.

Taunton Corporation adopted revised scales of salary and remedied various grievances in matters relating to payments of increments, sick leave, and holidays as a result of representations from **Somerset** Branch. Legal Department at headquarters again rendered valuable assistance to members of Branch during past year.

Substantial advance in improvement of service conditions at **Walsall**. Membership also on the "up and up." Great social activity and extended recreative facilities.

That membership of branches in the **South-Western** District has increased by 530 to 4,734. Fairly quiet year, but good all-round progress recorded.

Aberdeen membership exceeds 300 for first time, total at October 31 being 312. Basis of calculation for non-contributory service for employees with ten years' service or over increased from 120ths to 80ths. B. & O. membership less than 50 per cent. Propaganda needed. Service conditions progressing well. Useful appendix is summary of N.A.L.G.O. activities.

Complete salaries and service conditions programme drawn up by **Cambridgeshire** Branch for presentation to County Council and negotiations now proceeding. Membership on the upgrade and intense interest in sectional and social activities.

Increase of fifteen in membership of **Crewe** Branch, 102 at October 31, 1935; 117 at October 31, 1936. Library staff 100 per cent strong.

Sixty-seven short of 100 per cent membership at **Lincoln**. During past year twenty new members joined, making 247 at October 31. Interesting table shows membership of Association and activities by departments.

Renewed desire for social events at **Lindsey** due to increasing membership, which now stands at 266.

Several temporary officers received per-

manent status at **Middlesbrough** and other questions of service conditions, salaries, and superannuation are under consideration. Membership reached 386.

Newport to be the perfect branch—no arrears, all subscriptions due having been paid within the financial year. Membership up by 18 to 407 and activities all thriving.

Legal assistance, salaries, and general service conditions well to the fore at **Northumberland**. Membership, at 420, nearly 100 per cent, and formation of sub-branches should achieve success during this year. Social and sporting events much in evidence.

Tribute to the work of the adjustment board (staff side) for the very able manner in which they carried through negotiations on the new scale of salaries, conditions of service, etc., and the very successful result reached for the members of the **Shropshire** Branch.

Walsall members have every reason to be satisfied. Among the events of the year have been the creation of an establishment of officers, the adoption of an improved scale of salaries, the provision of opportunity for the promotion or transfer of officers in the lower grades from one department to another, and a grading scheme of holidays, which, although not all that could be desired, means improved holiday facilities for about a third of the staff. Membership shows increase of 48 to 382.

That the **Leicester City** executive committee has spent a very active year, including formation of a N.A.L.G.O. orchestra and extension of sports activities to include billiards and chess. Membership has increased by 160 during the year; the figure is now 845 as compared with 460 in 1931. Congratulations on having qualified for a diploma of merit by subscribing £1,000 to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund since its inception.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

"The work of local authorities shows a marked tendency to increase. The effect of this expansion, more particularly in the counties and large county boroughs, not only means that the duties of members of a council constantly become more onerous, but that additional staffs are necessary to cope with the greater volume of administrative work. It may be that in the near future a Royal Commission will be appointed to consider the whole question of local government. I know that our National Association can be relied upon to watch closely any such proposed developments in order to ensure that the interests of all officers are adequately safeguarded," said Mr. W. H. Leigh-Smith in his presidential address to the annual meeting of the **Liverpool** Branch.

At the **Lytham St. Annes** Branch annual meeting Mr. Stanley Pearce, the borough treasurer, was re-elected president, an office he has filled for thirteen years; Mr. C. J. Wade was reappointed honorary secretary, and Mr. W. Salthouse honorary treasurer. The membership of the branch has been maintained, and a subscription of £46 6s. had been made to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

The guests at a dinner and dance which followed the meeting included the Mayor and Mayoress of Lytham St. Annes (Coun. and Mrs. C. H. Riley), Mr. Walter Heap (the town clerk) and Mrs. Heap, and members of the corporation.

The tenth annual general meeting of the **Port of London Authority** Branch was held on November 24. The annual report revealed that the membership had increased by twenty-two during the year to a total of 892, that the membership of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund is 516 and of the Provident Society and Building Society, 181 and 363.

The guests of the evening were Mr. P. H.

Camaraderie

Harrold, town clerk, Hampstead, and T. M. Kershaw, divisional secretary. Mr. Harrold, in the course of an interesting address, gave an outline of some of the work of the legal department. Mr. Kershaw referred to the importance of efficient branch organisation in order that the Association may work effectively. He reviewed the representations made during the year on matters of staff pay and grading and emphasised the value of the principle of Whitleyism.

The annual meeting of the **Saffron Walden** Branch was held on November 18. The chairman (Mr. W. Nelson) gave a report covering the whole of the activities of the branch during the past year, and showed that progress had been made and the membership increased. It was decided to commence the winter social programme with a dinner early in the new year.

The 18th annual general meeting of the **Smethwick** Branch was held on November 18.

Mr. Geo. A. Owen (president), presenting the annual report of the Committee, stated that there had been an increase in membership during the year.

It was unanimously decided to elect Mr. E. L. Twycross (deputy town clerk) president of the branch for the ensuing year, and he was duly invested with the badge of office. He was sure that all members would be pleased to hear that his predecessor in the office of deputy town clerk, and a former president of the branch, Mr. Horace Slim, had this year been elected president of the **Hammersmith** branch.

At the annual meeting of the **Long Eaton** Branch which preceded the annual dinner on November 12, it was reported that during the year the council adopted an improved scale of salaries, which, if not all that could be desired, is an improvement on scales operating in the past.

The report of the executive committee of the **Monmouth County Officers** Branch which was presented to the annual meeting on November 27, stated that practically every chief officer of the County Council was a member, and that membership has increased by 23 during the year. Among service conditions matters it is recorded that the association took up the cases of two members in connection with their service rights with entirely satisfactory results to the members concerned; that the attendance officers were successful in obtaining a higher maximum salary; and that as yet the joint staff advisory committee which has temporarily lapsed, has not been restored. The County Council decided some time ago that entrance to the lower grades of their service shall be as a result of a general educational test. It is interesting to note that for the last three examinations, this test has been set by N.A.L.G.O.

The annual meeting of the **Peterborough** Branch was held on November 17. The annual report showed that in spite of many staff changes which had taken place during the year, the membership now stands at 87, 17 more than last year. The branch gives particularly good support to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund—89 per cent of the members being members of the Fund—and the Provident Society, of which there are 2 members. A badminton and social club, which is held twice weekly, was launched in October of this year, and has proved a great success.

The **Wedsnesbury** Branch annual meeting was held on November 30, and was addressed by the divisional secretary. The annual report stated that membership has increased from 49 to 56. A successful dance, which drive, and annual outing have been held, and arrangements have been made for the use of the clinic for a club-room on two evenings a week.

Hereford City Branch annual meeting was held on November 6, when the divisional

(Continued on page 21.)



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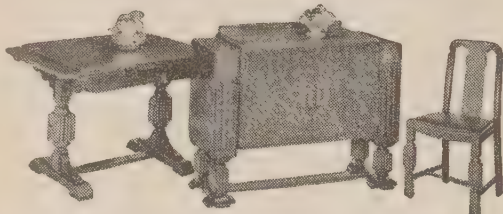
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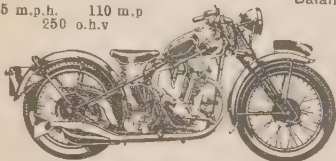
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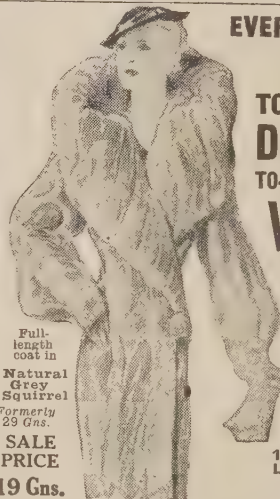
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secretary attended and addressed the meeting. The report of the honorary secretary stated that negotiations undertaken by the divisional secretary resulted in the reduction of office hours from 6 to 5.30.

The annual meeting of the **Canterbury and District Branch** was held on November 18. After the presentation of the annual report of the executive committee and the balance sheet, Mr. G. W. Marks, the town clerk of Canterbury, was unanimously elected the president of the branch for the year 1936-37. The business meeting was followed by an enjoyable social and dance at the Café Tudor, Jerne Bay.

Mr. J. E. Harrold, J.P., chairman of the Dursley Rural District Council, in welcoming the annual general meeting of the **West Gloucestershire Branch**, said he did not think it should be left to councils to fix officers' salaries. A satisfactory report was submitted, from which it was evident that social activities are very popular.

At the annual meeting of the **Ipswich Branch** the honorary secretary was able to report that the membership still stood at over 200, and was representative of seventeen departments of the Ipswich Corporation.

The meeting received with acclamation the report that the Ipswich Town Council had readily agreed to set up a joint advisory committee consisting of equal representation of council and staff members.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the **Burton upon Trent Branch** was held on December 2, 1936, when the working of the Superannuation Act, 1922 (which was adopted at Burton on April 1, 1936), was reviewed and the proposed Compulsory Superannuation Bill noted with pleasure. The membership of the branch has shown a continual increase during the past few years and will shortly reach 180.

The annual meeting of the **Gloucester Branch** was held on December 1, 1936. Dr. H. J. Lacombe (Education Officer) was appointed president for the ensuing year. The report of the honorary secretary (Mr. C. J. Luker) dealt with the various activities of the branch for the year, which included an enjoyable outing, several socials, annual dinner, etc. Mr. C. J. Luker relinquished the duties of honorary secretary after a period of twenty-seven years, and members testified to the sterling work he had done on behalf of the local branch. Mr. A. P. Harris was elected as honorary secretary for the ensuing year. The present membership of the branch is 119. Efforts are to be made to encourage more members to subscribe to the B. & O. Fund.

The annual meeting of the **City of Worcester Branch** was held on December 2, and attracted a record attendance of nearly 100. The secretary for education, Mr. F. E. Chandler, presided, and in his address referred to the loss the branch had suffered by the sudden death of the honorary secretary, Mr. W. R. Matthews, in October. At the conclusion of the meeting supper was served.

The president then presented the trophies won by the tennis teams for men's and mixed doubles in the West Midlands District Competitions, together with replicas which the branch had provided to commemorate the first occasion on which both cups had been won by one branch.

The annual meeting of the **Hastings Branch** was held on November 30. The report of the executive committee for the year stated that the present membership was 218, an increase of seven on the previous year. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that it was the intention of the executive committee, in the ensuing year, to formulate an educational policy. They were desirous of setting up an advisory panel to assist junior members of the staff in preparing for their examinations, and to introduce study circles.

At the conclusion of the meeting a social was held at which some 170 members and friends were present.

The annual meeting of the **Ilford Branch** was held on November 25, 1936. A satisfactory report was submitted on behalf of the executive committee, and congratulations were accorded to (1), the whist team, captained by Mr. H. J. Greateorex, for winning the Metropolitan District Whist Challenge Cup; (2), the table tennis team, captained by Mr. G. Peplow, who were runners-up in the second division of the Metropolitan District Competition; and (3), Messrs. A. J. H. Braund and F. V. Sales, who reached the final of the snooker pairs competition. The branch membership shows a net increase of 11 during the official year, and stood at 214, and since the annual meeting 39 new recruits have been enrolled.

At the annual general meeting of the **Preston Branch**, held on December 8, Mr. W. Allison Davis, C.B.E., F.S.A.A., the borough treasurer, was elected president of the branch to succeed Mr. H. E. Nutter, the town clerk of Preston, who was warmly thanked for his great interest in the activities of N.A.L.G.O. The meeting, which was one of the shortest in the history of the branch, was presided over by Mr. Nutter. The annual report which was read and approved recorded welcome increases in all activities, the membership now being 383 as against 358 in 1935.

The **East Ham Branch** annual general meeting was held on November 27, 1936. The chairman of the branch (Dr. F. E. Bendix), deputy medical officer of health, presented an interesting and comprehensive report on the work of the executive committee during the year, and paid tribute to the continued good work carried out by the enthusiastic officers of the branch. After the routine business of the evening was disposed of, the members were privileged to listen to a most interesting address delivered by Professor H. J. Laski, M.A., Lecturer in Political Science at the London University, on some implications of the Departmental Committee's Report on the Qualifications, Recruitment, Training and Promotion of Local Government Officers, of which he was a distinguished member. During the evening a presentation of a wireless set was made to Mr. M. E. Fitch, who has now retired from the honorary general secretaryship of the branch after 10 years service. Mr. Fitch is, however, continuing to serve the branch in the office of honorary social secretary, and is succeeded by Mr. F. L. D. Flintoff as general secretary.

ANNUAL DINNERS

There was a record attendance at the annual dinner of the **Gwent Branch** on December 5. Proposing the toast of local government authorities, Mr. Trevor C. Griffiths, clerk of the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council, said the insidious attempt of non-elected bodies to dictate policy of civic bodies was spreading very rapidly. Such a thing could be a very potent and awkward clog in the wheels of administrative activities. He was glad to say that the chairmen and members of local authorities were not too perturbed. The reply was made by Councillor Idris J. Bowen, chairman of the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council, who said: "If we are democrats, we should be willing enough and generous enough to listen to the people who put us in the position we occupy. Those people might not be a society; they might be the general public."

The **Sutton and Cheam Branch** held its annual dinner on November 19, 1936, ninety-one members and friends being present.

The chair was taken by the president, Mr. C. W. Newbery, the guests of the evening being His Worship the Mayor, Alderman S. H. Marshall, J.P., C.C., and the mayoress.

After the dinner a variety entertainment was given by the staff, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

Billericay Branch held its annual dinner and dance on November 19, and over seventy members and friends were present, including

a number of urban district councillors. Mr. A. Denton Ogden (member of the National Executive Council) delivered a most interesting speech in reply to the toast of N.A.L.G.O.

Billericay is to be congratulated upon its recent considerable increase in membership and the keen interest which the branch is now taking in all activities. Eighty-five per cent of the staff now being members.

The annual dinner and dance arranged by the **Eastbourne Branch** was held on November 25, when over 100 members and their friends were present. The president of the branch, Mr. W. Hynes (borough librarian), was in the chair.

"The County Borough of Eastbourne" was proposed by the president, and in responding, the mayor deferred with pleasure to the excellent work of N.A.L.G.O. Dancing followed the dinner, and during an interval the Hastings "N.A.L.G.O. Girls" gave a cabaret.

A very successful venture was the first annual dinner of the **Long Eaton Branch**, which was held on November 12. There were thirty members present in addition to the guests. The toast "Local Government" was proposed by Mr. A. B. Day (National Executive Council).

Interesting figures showing the activities of the Association were given at the annual dinner and dance of the **Nottinghamshire Co. Branch**, held on December 10. Mr. K. Tweedale Meaby, clerk of the County Council and president of the branch, occupied the chair, and gave the toast of "Nottinghamshire County Council." County Councillor S. H. Clay, in reply, said it was recognised that the present system was the finest form of local government in the world, and he was proud of the fact. The toast of "The Visitors" was presented by Mr. J. Bramley, and responded to by Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey (National Executive Council). The toast of "The Chairman" was submitted by Mr. W. S. Holman (Chairman of the Executive Committee). The chairman responded and presented a cup to Mr. E. P. Smith, captain of the clerks department cricket team, who won the trophy last summer in competition with other departments of the County Council.

A striking speech on the theme of "The Unchanging Englishman" was made by Nottingham's new Recorder, Sir Albion Richardson, C.B.E., K.C., when he spoke at the 24th annual dinner of the **Nottingham Branch** on November 27. The town clerk, Mr. J. E. Richards, who is president of the branch, presided, and amongst the very large gathering present were the Lord Mayor (Councillor E. Purser), the Sheriff (Councillor A. E. Savage), Mr. J. L. Holland (vice-president of N.A.L.G.O.), members of the Council. Proposing the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of Nottingham," the Recorder said: "Because the ancient city of Nottingham had its roots so deep in the good soil of England and had garnered so many of the best traditions of civic and national life, not only the citizens of Nottingham, but the strangers within her gates would drink that toast with enthusiasm."

Regret that the **Stoke-on-Trent City Council** had not yet adopted a superannuation scheme for its officials was expressed at the 14th annual dinner of the **Stoke-on-Trent Branch** on November 20. An interesting ceremony during the evening was the presentation of a clock occupying a position in the Jubilee Hall from local government officers of the City to the Corporation.

The sixth annual dinner and concert of **Cannock Branch** was held recently.

The toast of the "N.A.L.G.O." was submitted by Mr. N. Waine (clerk to Brownhills Urban District Council). He described "Nalگو," which was doing many things for them, as their father and mother, and said it was good to see the association steadily rolling on towards the 100,000 mark. He

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21.)

thought this year the Cannock Branch ought to make an effort to reach 100 per cent membership.

Mr. L. Hill, general secretary, was one of the guests at the annual dinner and dance of the Luton and District Branch, held on December 9.

The president, Dr. F. Grundy, deputy medical officer of health, presided over a gathering of about 120, which included representatives from the Bedford, Bedford County, and Hemel Hempstead branches.

Proposing "The Association," Mr. F. Mander, B.Sc., general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the N.U.T. had a great deal in common with N.A.L.G.O.

Both parties had to engage frequently in political administration, and both had to concern themselves very often with the scrutiny, with the promotion and the influencing of legislation, but neither of them knew politics in the party sense.

Mr. L. Hill responded. He said the nations everywhere to-day were seeking a formula on which the ordinary man and woman could fulfil their hopes of a better life.

He believed that formula lay in local administration—the conditions under which people were born, and under which they were brought up. The hope lay in local government and in education.

More than 500 members and friends attended the annual dinner and dance of the Leicester City Branch on December 3, 1936, which proved to be a great success. During dinner selections were played by the N.A.L.G.O. orchestra, which was formed three months ago and consists entirely of members of the branch.

The annual dinner and dance of the Isle of Wight Branch took place on December 7, there being an attendance of nearly 100.

The Mayor of Ryde proposed the toast of "The Association," saying it was only recently that he had gained an idea of the vast scope of the organisation. It was a splendid organisation and seemed to supply the wants of all departments. Best of all they had a benevolent fund for widows and orphans. They should be proud of an association which was doing such splendid work.

An enjoyable dance followed.

The second annual dinner of the Staveley Branch was held on December 9th, the president of the branch (Mr. H. H. Stanley) presiding.

The number present was 134, and the toasts were "The Staveley Branch of N.A.L.G.O.," proposed by the chairman of the council (Coun. Fern), the president responding; "Our Visitors," by Mr. S. F. Esland, which was acknowledged by Miss M. Wilson (matron, Mastin Moor Hospital). During the evening, a presentation was made by the branch to Dr. J. R. Graham (medical officer of health) to mark his recent marriage.

"BEANO 1937"

Last month we announced that the Isle of Thanet Branch had undertaken to produce "Beano 1937," and appealed for contributions in the form of dramatic or humorous stories and sketches.

Dr. Alexander said that "Beano 1937" is to be the best "bobsworth" for "Nalgotes" ever produced. In addition to the stories submitted for the competition by N.A.L.G.O. members, such well-known persons as K. R. G. Browne, Ruby M. Ayres, and Victor Canning among others have contributed special stories.

The prizes will be announced in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE next month, and will prove very interesting. One contributor has succeeded in obtaining five prizes with his articles, stories, and sketches, and the work is of a very high order.

The response by branches has been excellent. One branch wrote: "Please reserve us at least one for every member." Why stop at one per member?

OBITUARY

It is with regret we have to announce that Mr. Charles Eustace Wilson, town clerk of East Ham, died after a somewhat long illness on December 15, 1936, at the age of 64.

Mr. Wilson was at the time of his death president of the East Ham Branch, a position which he had occupied for some years on his elevation from the chairmanship of the branch. He took a particularly keen interest in the social life of the staff, and was most regular in his attendance at such functions as the annual outings and annual dinners.

Mr. Wilson was a native of West Ham, but early in his life removed to East Ham. He was educated at Rugby School and admitted a solicitor in 1896. During his period of office he saw East Ham attain the status of a county borough.

A funeral service was held at St. Bartholomew's Church, East Ham, on December 19, 1936. The interment took place at Southwold, Suffolk, a favourite spot of Mr. Wilson's.

His death breaks the connection of the Wilson family with the local government life of East Ham, a connection which has existed for nearly 58 years, his father being the first clerk to the East Ham Local Board, then clerk to the East Ham District Council, and later, from the year 1904, first town clerk of the borough.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. A. Gordon Edwards, solicitor, Newport, who was clerk to the Abercarn Urban District Council, the Abertillery Water Board, and the Monmouthshire Western Valley Sewerage Board. For many years Mr. Gordon Edwards had been a most valued member of the Abercarn and Risca Branch.

We much regret the death in most tragic circumstances of Mr. Milton M. Thomas, chief sanitary inspector to the Merthyr Tydfil Corporation. Mr. Thomas had been in the employ of the Corporation for 39 years, and chief sanitary inspector for 25 years.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Mrs. Winifred A. Hill, matron of Erdington House, Birmingham, was recently successful in passing with distinction the final examination for mental nursing of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and in gaining the "Campbell Clark" gold medal and prize for the highest aggregate marks in all England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Mr. H. A. Derry, A.C.I.S., A.I.S.A., of the Nottingham County Council public assistance department, has been awarded the "Mary Hill" Memorial Medal and the "Evaline E. Daley" prize for the best papers in the clerical assistants final examination of the Poor Law Examinations Board, held in April last.

We offer hearty congratulation to these members on their achievements.

NEW BRANCH

The divisional secretary attended a meeting of officers of the Borough of Grantham on November 25, when it was unanimously decided to form a branch. The branch will be established from January 1, 1937.

SOCIALS

The Darwen Branch recently held its annual whist drive and dance, when a gathering of some 400 people enjoyed the evening.

The annual meeting of members was held on November 17, the meeting being preceded by a dinner, and followed by an entertainment.

A whist drive, supper and dance was held by the Beckenham Branch on November 26,

when the mayor, aldermen, councillors, and their ladies were the guests of the branch. Mr. J. E. Tapper, the president, welcomed the guests, who included an old friend in the person of Mr. H. Storr Best.

Godalming Branch was "at home" on December 3 to members of Guildford, Farnham, and Haslemere Branches, in a social sports evening, the first of a series of similar games meetings arranged between the four branches for the winter session. Between fifty and sixty members participated in a very enjoyable evening.

The Maidstone, Malling, and Hollingbourn Joint Branch has agreed to support the annual dance of the Malling and Hollingbourn R.D.C. staffs, held in conjunction with the staff of Messrs. Bracher, Son & Miskin, Solicitors. The dance is to take place on January 8 at the New Star Ballroom, Maidstone, and a cabaret has been engaged to take place during the supper. Members of neighbouring branches of the Association are cordially invited to attend.

Doyen of Branch Secretaries

A FOUNDER of two branches and a continuous record of honorary secretaryship since 1909 is a unique achievement in the annals of the Association. The holder of this record, Mr. J. W. Sharpe, of Northampton, has just relinquished the position of honorary secretary of that branch, and with his resignation, due to the pressure of official duties, N.A.L.G.O. is poorer.

Mr. Sharpe was a founder of the Central Warwickshire Branch in 1909, became its first honorary secretary and held that position until he removed to Northampton. The Northampton Town and County Branch was formed during January, 1919, Mr. Sharpe and the present town clerk of Northampton, Mr. W. R. Kew, being the founders. Mr. Sharpe was appointed honorary secretary of the branch, which is the only joint branch of county and county borough officers in England, and he held that position until he resigned at the annual general meeting in November, 1936. The commencing membership was 70, and it has steadily increased until it has now reached the impressive total of 360. Northampton used to be in the Eastern District and Mr. Sharpe was honorary treasurer of the district committee in those days. When the branch was transferred to the East Midland District, at the annual conference, 1921, he became a member of the district committee and has served on the committee since that time, having held the positions of chairman and of vice-president.

For some years, Mr. Sharpe was chairman of the East Midland Regional Committee of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and a member of the Management Committee, a position he relinquished only this year. He has attended every conference since 1919.

This is indeed a noble record of activity on behalf of the Association, and we are proud to pay our tribute to the yeoman work which Mr. Sharpe has performed in the interests of his colleagues over such a long period of years. Intensely interested in the duties of his office, industrious and efficient, Mr. Sharpe is a high example of what voluntary service in N.A.L.G.O. can mean. And yet, withal, modest; so modest that he felt it would be an embarrassment to have his picture published in these pages, and thus, we have had to publish, unillustrated, this "thank you" to the doyen of branch secretaries.

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"
"The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

DO not tell me, my readers, that when you plan the adornment of your window boxes for 1937 you give no thought to the fellow next door. A potent force, this neighbour, in stirring us up.

Our talk of window boxes, tubs, etc., last month was left incomplete because space failed; now, however, we can get at that part of the programme. I finished with a reference to bulbs and now follow it up with an eye to the Coronation.

One of the great merits of bulbs apart from their beauty is that they will endure what a working-man friend of mine calls "messaging about." (While you are planting bulbs or putting them in pots, glasses, bowls, etc., you are gardening; when you take them up out of the soil for some particular purpose you are "messaging about" with them.) Nearly all bulbs will endure being shifted at an advanced stage of growth just as if they liked it. They don't mind it even if they are almost or quite in bloom. Now think what that means and ask yourself what other class of plant is equally accommodating.

Suppose that you want to have a display of bloom in your window boxes in February with unforced stuff you lift Snowdrops and Crocuses; if in March Crocuses again, supported by blue Glory of the Snow and its white variety, and by early Hyacinths; if in April early Tulips and Hyacinths and again Glory of the Snow or Scilla sibirica (blue, white); if in May (here we come to it) late Hyacinths, Darwin and Cottage Tulips, and Grape Hyacinths (Muscari, blue, white). (Note: that Grape Hyacinths may be ready in April; they have a longer season of bloom than other small spring bulbs.)

For May bloom in window boxes we can look to other garden stuff than bulbs, always provided we are prepared to handle it thoughtfully. Take Forget-me-nots for example. These are plants of the tufty habit which favours transplantation, hence can be lifted with a mass of roots and soil so intimately associated that there need be little fear of shifting them even if they are well on the way to blooming, provided the "ball" is sufficiently moist. And Forget-me-nots yield shades of blue of different and welcome tints.

There are, too, autumn-sown dwarf Silenes and Saponarias. These, and more particularly the Saponarias, are thoroughly tufty. The flowers of the best-known annual types are pink, so that they go well with the Forget-me-nots; moreover, there are white varieties, so that the national colours are sufficiently represented in these three plants alone.

All three kinds are purchasable from nurserymen almost up to the time of flowering, and will shift all right if the precautions mentioned above are adopted.

There will doubtless be quite a few among my readers who do not grow Silenes and Saponarias, but who do grow Giant Double Daisies. In these the pre-

valuing colours are red, pink, and white, but not blue. Still, there are always the Forget-me-nots, so there is no need to worry. Now Daisies of the type named are quite likely to be in bloom in May except in cold places. As a matter of fact they flower off and on right through the winter in many districts. Not only so, but they will stand shifting quite well, the proper conditions being understood as before. One learns with experience to get Daisies in different stages according to the time of sowing. May sowing will be all right for large plants, July soon enough for smaller clumps.

On no account must I forget Polyanthuses and Primroses—prime favourites for spring blooming in the authorial garden. They give us in May, earlier or later according to the amount of shelter, red, white, blue, yellow and orange—a real medley of hues in fact. Here again we have plants which shift quite amicably, making no fuss whatever, as how should they, considering the homogeneous masses of root and soil which we find on lifting? I sincerely hope that my readers made a good sowing of these invaluable plants, either in a frame in early spring or outdoors in May. With all the rain we had last year the summer sowings are pretty forward, but the frame sowing is generally best.

The foregoing plants should meet all needs for May, but in view of the popularity of Anemones, particularly of the species fulgens and its forms, and the Poppy type representing varieties of coronarius, I had better say a few words about them. In fulgens itself we get a vivid red, and few spring flowers are more brilliant in groups if tubers are planted in autumn. In the Poppy class we get pinks, reds and an approach to blue. Perhaps most people sow these in spring for summer flowering, but it must not be forgotten that tubers planted in autumn provide a very convenient means of getting spring bloom.

Readers will not have forgotten that year by year I recommend the double white Arabis as a spring blooming plant which yields numerous charming almost Lily of the Valley-like spikes that are invaluable for cutting. This too can be lifted for spring boxes if desired, taking up clumps with plenty of moist soil clinging to the roots, preferably before the flower-spikes are far advanced. And so can Christmas Roses.

Finally, so far as spring flowers are concerned, there are Violas—absolutely the best of all in the estimation of many, I do not doubt. They give us blue and white at their very best, appropriate varieties being chosen; and I think everybody must have found that they can be shifted while in full bloom during spring, always provided the soil is well enmeshed with roots and is thoroughly moist. Nor must we forget Sweet Violets.

Summer boxes can await their turn.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

THIS is an appropriate subject at the season of the year, as the Bridge has its quota of sinners. Indeed, of us is entirely immune from weakness and limitations which call for firm resolve if the future is to be brighter and happier for our partners and ourselves.

As, however, New Year resolutions are generally confined to main principles, I restrict my list to matters of outstanding concern.

Bidding: (1) Remember that the Major suit road to a rubber is a long and tedious one, and the quicker highway of No Trumps or No Trumps should be used whenever practicable. (Get away from Major suit bidding as quickly as circumstances permit. In other words, if a start is to be made with a Diamond or Club into a Major suit, or, preferably, into No Trumps—at the first opportunity.) Remember, however, that a No Trump is subject to more risks and "snags" than any other. (If, therefore, you have a good Major suit, even though four only, bid it initially—in preference to No Trump.) (3) Don't make initial bids unless holding 2½ Honour Tricks, equivalent of 2 Aces and a covered King. (You may make a Defensive or overcall on 1½, say, K, Q, x, x, x, + Q, J, x.) (4) Don't forget you can lose as much by under-calling as over-calling, but "Flag-flying" should be kept in reserve for rare occasions. (5) Don't double bid unless you are prepared to double.

Play of Hand: (1) Acquaint yourself with the accepted Leads and get them fixed in your mind. (E.g., Lead the top of a sequence, or a sequence, and not the bottom—of a sequence.) As third player, however, play the lead of a sequence to a lead of your partner's. (If you hold Q, J, 10, play the 10 and the Queen—except when leading.) Before returning your partner's lead, ask him a strong suit of your own. (If he has A, K of another suit, lead the Ace before returning the original lead.) (2) As a general rule, lead the highest of any bid by your partner in defence. (Any No Trumps you should lead your partner's suit rather than one of your own—unless you have reason to believe that the partner is likely to be, at least, as effective as your partner's.) (5) If the bidding suggests the possibility of cross ruffing by the Declarer, lead Trumps. (6) Acquaint yourself with the "Encouragement" card. (This consists of the play of a higher, and indicates to your partner that it is made from a strong or potential trump.) (7) Never finesse against your partner except under special circumstances.

Laws: (1) Acquaint yourself with the new Laws of Auction or Contract Bridge. (2) Agree that Penalties shall be enforced for breach of any of the laws.